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Inside story



Society

Inside: Budget

The Tories' last card

Clarke gambles on tax cuts and growth to deliver election victory

Larry Elliott and Michael White

day turned the leakiest Budget on record into cautious in the history of electioneering, banking on strong economic growth and a mod-est 1p tax cut to deliver the Conservatives a fifth election

victory next spring.
With one eye on the City, the Chancellor trimmed public spending, pledged to hit the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target, and invited voters to trust the Tories to deliver steady prosperity into

Playing the Tories' last card before the election, Mr Clarke's package was designed to appeal to the swing voters of Middle England. It cut the basic rate of income tax to 23p in the pound, in-creased the value of tax allowances and raised spending on health and education while supporting married couples

accused of stealing Labour's clothes and sneaking through a "windfall tax" on the utilities when he announced cuts in capital allowances claimed by the privatised companies on pipes, pylons and power stations in a move that could raise 2675 million a year. Budget special, page 9

and removing top-up benefits from single parents. from single parents.

Overall, the Budget is set to reduce taxes by only £735 million next year, because income tax reductions will be offset by dearer tobacco, petrol, insurance and air travel, and a crackdown on tax avoidance. There was also a

help for small business. Mr Clarke told the Commons that a tight Budget was needed to keep interest rates low and ensure that the econ-omy grows by the expected 3.5 per cent in 1997. With consumer spending projected to rise by 4 per cent, the Trea-sury is gambling that the recovery does not explode into a Lawson-style boom.

Ministers believe that the

nod to the green lobby and

safety-first approach is the key to a feel-good factor among voters that will rescue

party wins the election.
The City was already starting to express deep scepticism about some of the Chancellor's arithmetic last night, fearing that the cuts in spend-ing are based on heroic as-sumptions for inflation and the proposed attack on social security fraud. Even so, bookmakers last night cut the price against a Conservative victory from 7/4 to 6/4, with

Labour moving out from 2/5 to 4/11 as the two parties began to trade blows on the Government's tax record. Tories said average families will be £1,100 better off after tax and inflation than before the last election; Labour says they are paying £1,120 more in taxes, and that the reality of Mr Clarke's "extra" funds for health, edu-

cation and the police is that cuts are looming despite sharp rises in council tax. An analysis for the Guardian by Coopers & Lybrand indicated that a single person on £20,000 a year will be £5 a month better off after all the Budget tax changes are taken

The Chancellor's caution, in delivering a minimalist Budget that had been trailed for weeks and leaked on an unprecedented scale 24 hours in advance, was offset by a bravura 75-minute Commons performance. Mr Clarke said he was "neither Santa Claus ner Scrooge", but his fourth Budget was derided by Tony Biair as a "last-gasp Budget of the government whose time is up". The Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, announced that Labour would not vote against the 1p cut in income tax, though the Liberal Democrats said they would.

Amid general satisfaction among Conservative MPs, friends of John Redwood warned it was an opportunity missed — a deflationary "Budget for Maastricht" which was trimming spending and borrowing solely to keep open Mr Clarke's per-sonal hope that sterling could qualify to enter the EU's single currency.

tors countered Labour's charges of "22 new taxes since 1992" with a new slogan of their own: "22 tax increases, new 25 tax cuts".

Mr Clarke closed with a Mr Clarke closed with a candid explanation for his strategy: "I am a man of the world. I realise virtue doesn't always bring its own rewards. But this virtuous Budget will bring rich rewards, the rewards of economic success to the hard-working men and women of this country. Never



off a bottle of spirits — Mr Clarke also revealed tax in-creases officially put at £1.5 billion — including 15p on 20 cigarettes, 3p on a litre of petrol, and the phasing out of tax relief on profit-related bonuses for 3 million

women of this country. Never forget, good economics is good politics."

Mr Clarke said he had resisted the temptation to cut the basic rate of tax by two pence, preferring to use the

However, those on low in-comes will be hit by the increases in indirect taxation, while the spending plans suggest that public sector work-ers can expect either job cuts or below-inflation pay awards

in the coming year.

Most Tory MPs, even Mr Clarke's critics, accepted that voters and the City would not be impressed by a give-away performance. But some right-wing Tories fear that infla-

"The Budget wasn"t exciting.

would have been a form of betrayal. It was ment to say that It wasn't meant to be. Excitement a tricky business and we

know how to do it. That's a formidable message."

among voters that will reacue good politics." In confirming the money to raise personal against the odds next spring to 22.2 billion package of tax allowances by 3.5 times the allowances by 3.5 tim tion will surge above Mr Clarke's 2.5 per cent forecasts before election day. **Hugo Young, Page 7** Freelance journalist 'was source of spectacular leak' to Mirror

Andrew Gulf and Ewen MacAskill

A PREELANCE journalist who specialises in investi-sative reporting was believed last night to have been the source of the unprecedented leak which upstaged Kenneth Clarke's Budget. speech from a reporter with a record for spectacular scoops

Workers are to be ques-tioned at a south London print plant, part of the

The Daily Mirror was office, where many staff have understood to have obtained a been told they face redundancy, and where Budget the day before Mr Clarke's papers are normally printed.

The Daily Mirror was office, where many staff have understood to have obtained a been told they face redundancy, and where Budget papers are normally printed.

The Mirror trumpeted its speech from a reporter with a trumpeted its speech from a reporter with a speech fro triumph in having obtained
50 per cent of the Budget's
content, but did not reveal
specific details.
The Government obtained

address, in Covent Garden, London, said: "He is not in the office at the moment but we have been receiving lots of The Government obtained calls from people asking to an injunction, but editor Piers speak to him. We cannot com-

Finance

Europe's oil and

The Mirror published its scoop without paying the source, although it is understood money would have stood money would have changed hands if details from the documents had been used.
Police were last night called
into one of Whitehall's big-

thing "curious" in the 94-page batch of papers returned to Downing Street.

Inside



World News Althor is polsed to be t reactions the asilibrical Fortres insipel after year

gas firms face a 213.6 billion bill for disposing of off-shore rigs following the row overtherent Sper.

Jonathen Davies who last played Rugby Union for Wales eight yous ago, returns agains Australia in Gardin

on Saturday

Radio 16; TV 16

ment and Letters 6;

Main points

Taxation

- One penny cut in the basic rate of income tax, from 24p to 23p.
 Lower 20p tax band raised by 2200 to 24,100.
 Trieschold for higher rate tox of
- Petrol and diesel up 3p a time about 12.5p per gallon from 6pm lest night. Certex up £5 to £145.
- - insurance premium tex up fro 2.5% to 4% from April 1997.

Spending and services

acrease by £1 5bn.

MANCO to £5.65.

in tax - 7p to 8p a bettle - from

second year running.

Spirits duty cut from 6pm by
4% to 26p a bottle.

What the tax changes mean to you

Single, employed person



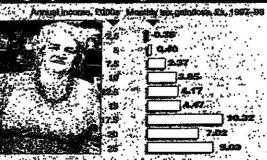




Married, employed person



Single pensioner aged between 65 and



Changelor's changes and what they rean for both the country and you:

On the West ... The Guardian's coverage averlable on the Internet: www.grandian.co.uk/budget/

IRA ceasefire plan rejected 'could be over by mid-1998'

David Sharrock

ME was being called last night on the race to restore the IRA ceasefire when government and the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, both said John Major had rejected

last-chance proposals. Mr Major is expected later this week to make public his sponse to a plan drawn up Mr Adams and the SDLP eder, John Hume, and sent

Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday: 'If there is any suggestion that terrorism will bring Sinn Fein to the negotiating table it emphatically will not."

Privately it is understood that Mr Major wrote to Mr Hume at the weekend telling him that the proposals do not square with current government policy.

The four-point plan calls for Sinn Fein's immediate entry into all-party talks without preconditions, a promise that the decommissioning of wea-poury will not be allowed to impede the talks, and a time

has not been persuaded, the | frame in which they will take | colleague Martin McGuinness |

It also calls for confidence building measures, such as ers, to be implemented. Yesterday Mr Adams, who is understood to have seen Mr Major's response, said: "All the indications are that the British are not going to respond in an adequate way to

the proposals put to them.
"The British appear to be
poised to reject the proposals
and raise the bar on Sinn
Feln's entry into talks." If Mr Major signalled a pos-

would be prepared to go to the TRA to seek a new ceasefire. The basis upon which we proceeded was that an unequivocal restoration of an

IRA cessation would lead to proper talks with the British government," Mr Adams "If they don't signal that in a very clear and unambigu-ous way then that makes the job of some of us who have

taken it upon ourselves very, very difficult indeed." He added: "If what we are hearing is accurate then all

will continue to try and move the situation forward." However, in a comme

that appeared to rule out an IRA ceasefire by Christmas Mr Adams said: "There isn't any evidence to suggest the IRA is contemplating any unilateral initiative like that.

appears that the British go ernment is going to reject what was put to them as way forward and a means of "I think it is incumbent

upon everyone to redouble their efforts in the short time

spirit required."
The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, has also indicated that he is relaxed about the government response and does not expect an IRA cease fire to emerge from it.

The gloom intensified yes-terday when the RUC Chief "We are at a point where it Constable, Ronnie Flanagan crease in sectarianism and bigotry as a result of the "di-

sastrous" marching sesson.
Mr Hanagan added: "We have nothing to suggest that a restoration of the cassation of violence is imminent. I only

PITAIN may already have fulfilled its Dromises to Europe to cull cattle at risk from "mad cow disease", a leading scientist said yester-

There may be just 150 cat-tle in Britain under 30 months old likely to develop the disease, hovine spongi-form encephalopathy (BSE)— and the epidemic could be over by mid-1998. But, Professor Roy Ander-

son of Oxford said yesterday that there was no way of knowing for certain that Britof the Florence Agreement— the "culling strategy" at the heart of a furious quarrel with Europe over the future

of British beef. Cattle more than 30 months old are being killed at the rate of 60,000 a week — close to a million since the scheme was started -- but no records have been kept of the Scientists and epidemiologists have asked for records of ages to be kept from now

ward his calculation after examining the pattern of BSE cases over the past 10 years. But he also challenged a paper — submitted to the medical journal the Lancet for publication — rumoured to predict "hundreds" of deaths a year from a new ver-sion of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD), confirmed only in March, and linked with the BSE epidemic.

"My own view is that it is vary difficult to say anything sensible scientifically about this issue at present," he said.
Professor Anderson is head
of the Wellcome Trust Centre
for the Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases, and one of the Government's advisers on the

progress of the Aids epidemic. In August, he predicted that the existing cull of cattle could all but eliminate BSE in Britain by 2001. Yesterday, he revealed that new studies suggested that — with extra kill-

tively wiped out by mid-1958.

Very many more animals
are being slaughtered than any of the selected cull

Florence Agreement, and one's suspicion is that the Florence Agreement has been met already," he said.
Altogether more than
160,000 cases of BSE have
been confirmed in Britain, although cases have been

schemes suggested in the

reported in 10 European BSE is one of a suite of socalled "prion diseases" or transmissible spongiform en-cephalopathies. Professor Anderson and other scientists meeting in London called for a Europe-wide attack on the best known of the diseases, sheep scrapie — suspected to have "converted" to BSE in

One approach would be to breed animals resistant to

cattle when infected sheep

carcasses were rendered into

scrapie.
Since March, BSE has also been linked with a new form of CJD, a dementia with no known cure. The Lancet confirmed yesterday that mem-bers of the governmentfunded CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh had submitted a paper proposing on the future course of the epidemic. The study is reported to say that there could be hundreds of victims of the new variant CJD each year, with a peak in about seven years.

Fourteen cases of the new CJD have been confirmed since March. A few more cases are suspected but not yet confirmed. The incubation period for the disease is not known. Scientists do not know how the mysterious protein involved in the prion diseases actually transmits infection, how much exposure is necessary or whether some people are more vulnerable than others.

"It will be a number of years, perhaps even decades, before we can say with any certainty what the size of this potential epidemic is, or is not," said Professor



Cordon blanc et noir at soccer's **Premier** League tables

Martin Walnwright

"HE quails' eggs were enough to make anyone dribble and there was no way the pan-fried scallops of venison with plump blueber-

"Of course it deserves to be in the Good Food Guide," chorused the lunch party from Barclays Bank — and they weren't even in the coveted "pitch view" position, on table 8.

It was bustling business as usual at Newcastle United's supercaff, the fifth-floor Magple Room, which has gatecrashed the prestigious guide today a year after opening. The executive bubble-lift with its view of the Blue Star brewery and Gateshead was busy and the last Sunday lunch booking free before the new year was snapped up. Down below, Alan Shear-

noodles and roast monkfish, pagne [£26.75]." £12.75). And there was almost certainly something symbolic about the chopped-up bits of Man Utd-red side-salad dished up with my quail.

We don't run to black and white themed food, though," said restaurant manager Deboffer you our Newcastle United-crested chardonnay or

Sat the Magpie Room

Choice of seven starters

mushrooms and quail eggs with a ribbon of hollandaise

including: wholegrain tartlets with forest

sauce and Argyll ham

Tartar of marinated

(£5.50).

Magpie Room's rich pickings

The airy rectaurant, solid

with 140 corporate guests at every home match, is the first Good Food Guide entry from the traditional world of lukewarm pies and dripping soused chips. The bible of foo-dies singles out the Magpie's chicken sausages with calva-dos sauce and seared scallops

cucumber strawberry salad

and fromage frais sweet dill

selection of fresh vegetables and potatoes including oven-baked wild salmon with a

forest mushroom soufflé herb crust and champagne butter sance (£12.50). A leek

vinaigrette (£5.75).

Choice of seven main courses served with a

as lime parsley (served with sauvignon, or possibly our the restaurant is only taurant in Alnwick, North football fans can't have a bit fresh Craster smoked salmon chairman's selection of cham-Newcastle's sixth entry in umberland, and posts in Park of luxury for once instead of Kissel Cranachan at Cafe Procope and foie gras with ham knuckle and pease pudding at 21 Queen St are praised.

They think it's olive oil over . . . chef John Blackmore, right, and deputy Roger Payne; above left, manageress Deborah Mackay

"We like to think we're top of the Premier League for food as well as football," said executive chef John Blackmore, whose pedigree in-cludes his own well-rated res-

celeriac and carrot rosti with homemade vegetable

ge slices and coriander

flavoured custard on a

flavoured sauce (£9).

Choice of 10 desserts

including gateau of oranges marinated in Cointreau

with home-made raspherry sorbet and a shortbread biscuit. And rich chocolate

the guide, although the city's Lane, London, as well as Gen-

cruited from her own restaurant, Vivance in nearby Pontealand, by the Magpies' chairman, Sir John Hall, as part of a drive to make the Toon Army's base at St James' Park a centre of excellence in everything.

pecan sponge pie with home-made marmalade ice

> Coffee or fine teas with petits-fours and United chocolate mints (£2.50).

cream. (Both £5).

Wines: Newcastle United chardonnay (£10.25) and chairman se champagne (£28.75).

sipping their Bovril in the Barclays' regional opera-tions director, Peter Wood,

treating three junior col-

leagues to a lunch, agreed. He said: "It's got a great atmosaid: "It's got a great amo-sphere and reasonable prices [set menu main courses all 26.75, three course Sunday lunch £14.95, children £6.95]." Over crested United choco-late mints, Ms Markay predicted further guide entries. "Rangers have got a good place up in Glasgow and I'm keen to get to the Red Cafe at Old Trafford — we'd like to have something like that here

too, for younger fans." Then she alipped off to show other customers the 1997 guide — flopping open automatically at the Newcas-

the page. "We're not going to be complacent," said Mr Blackmore. "We're now work-ing towards a Michelin star."

sentimental friend Further holes picked in story as

er's home pitch looks as green | Tweed salmon with a

Review

Michael Billington The Cherry Orchard Albery Theatre

DRIAN Noble's famous A production of The Cherry Orchard was perfectly suited to Stratfordon-Avon's Swan Theatre. The building's galleried structure simply became Ranyevskaya's beloved house, rendering scenery superfluous.
Transplanted to the Albery.

the production looks more calculatedly stark, though Rich-ard Hudson's design implies the existence of a multi-storey house behind a semi-transpar ent curtain. But Noble's production still works its magic because it obeys Chekhov's in-structions. "What has emerged in my play." he wrote, "is not a drama but a comedy, in places even a farce." And what we get is not a sentimental hymn to lost property but a work by a clear

eyed Russian humorist. The production constantly emphasises the comic absurdity of the characters. Penelone Wilton's magnificently volatile Ranyevskaya is a woman who clearly left her heart in Paris with her swindling lover. Even as Lopakhin tries to explain ways to save her estate, she is gossiping or making funny crocodile shapes with her hands. She rhapsodises over the beauty of the orchard and flirts with every man, but the key to her character lies in how she ardently retrieves a scrunched-up telegram from Paris. Alec McCowen's Gaev turns

snobbery into a form of style: he judges everyone by their odour, views Lopakhin through lowered eyelids, and drifts along in a state of almost childlike dependence. Of course, we feel a twinge of sympathy as brother and

sister depart the house. But Noble makes you feel that, in terms of social justice, the es-tate belongs to the business-man, Lopakhin. Even here, we become more aware than usual of the character's comic contradictions: David Troughton plays him superbly as a man torn between class ven-geance and private guilt. Chekhov sees his charac-

ters with objective humour and subjective affection. And the idea is carried right through the production, from John Dougall's absurdly acci-

dent-prone Epihodov to Peter Copley's antique Firs. The great virtue of this production is that it allows the pain to emerge through the comedy and removes the dusty sentimentality with which we have so often shrouded Chekhov's humor-

ous masterpiece.
This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Good riddance to OJ dismisses DNA evidence

prosecution ends questioning

Christopher Reed In Los Angeles

HE intense prosecution questioning of O J Simp-son in his civil murder trial ended yesterday, leaving America's most famous defen-dant down but not out.

As the court adjourned until next week when Mr Simpson's lawyers question him, Daniel Petrocelli, representing the family of the mur-der victim Ronald Goldman, was praised for exposing nu-merous inconsistencies in Mr Simpson's version of his whereabouts on the night of the murder, and his treation and the two victims.
ment of his ex-wife Nicole In the court in the Los An-

Brown Simpson. Both were stabled to death outside her house in the Los Angeles suburb of Brentwood in June,

Mr Simpson was acquitted of the murders in the criminal trial last year. Mr Petrocelli was able to show several times that Mr Simpson had lied or been careless with the truth. But in a surprising omission, the former football hero and television commentator dismissed evidence that occu-pled the criminal trial for more than a month: the consistent DNA matching of blood samples with Mr Simp-

geles seaside suburb of Santa i their disadvantage. But Mr Monica, Mr Petrocelli asked Mr Simpson if he had any ex-planation for the DNA blood lular telephone with Tom matches. Mr Simpson could not explain how his blood appeared on his kitchen counter, or how blood in his Ford Bronco matched his own blood. He had no explanation for why Nicole's blood was on the carpet on the driver's side of his Ford Bronco, and no ex-planation for why Goldman's blood was also found in the vehicle. Each time he replied "No" or "None".

No" or "None". He was equally non-commit-tal over damaging questions about the slow police chase that was watched by millions on worldwide television five days after the murders.

The chase episode was not

used in evidence during the criminal trial because prosecutors feared it might be to

Lange, a Los Angeles detec-tive. According to his criminal defence team, he was one of the policemen engaged in an alleged conspiracy to frame Mr Simpson. Yet, Mr Petrocelli pointed out, Mr Simpson praised his

work, saying "You've been honest with me from the very beginning. I know you're doing a good job." Mr Simp-son agreed that he had made these remarks. When Mr Lange sugge

he surrender, and added: "No one's going to be hurt," Mr Simpson replied: "I'm the only one that deserves it." Mr Simpson said he did not remember that particular exchange, but Mr Petrocelli was reading from a transcript.

Ex-MP in critical condition after car crash traps workmen

Sarah Boseley

ED Leadbitter, the former Labour MP for Hartlepool was in a critical condition in ospital last night after his car hit a road maintenance lorry, trapping three worknen collecting road cones. Hartlepool police said Mr Leadbitter, aged 77, was driv-ing his Rover 850 southbound along the A19 near Dalton

Piercy, a few miles from Hart-

lepool, where he lives. Two

lorries were travelling slowly

tween them, collecting cones. Mr Leadbitter's car hit the back of the rear vehicle, a Leyland truck, and shunted it into the other, a Mercedes. The men were trapped between the lorries. All four people involved in the acciient on Monday were taken

injuries. A spokeswoman for North Tees hospital said his condition was critical.

to hospital. Two workmen were treated for bruising. The third, Alan Welch, aged 38, from Northumberland, received head injuries and was said to be com- a colourful character around Queen's Picture fortable in Hartlepool general | the House of Commons. He in- Soviet agent.

hospital yesterday. Police | curred the wrath of the then said Mr Leadbitter, the local Labour leader Neil Kinnock by buying shares in British Telecom and British Gas MP for 28 years, suffered head, neck, pelvis and chest

The accident occurred weeks after the death of Mr Leadbitter's wife, Irene, following a long filmess.

Mr Leadbitter, whose safe sest was inherited by Labour Party election co-ordinator Peter Mandelson in 1992, was

when party policy was against privatisation. A former teacher, he served on the select committee on science and technology. He lost to Betty Boothroyd when he tried to become Speaker of

the House in 1987. He was also the MP who, in 1979, exposed Sir Anthony Blunt, the Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, as a former

In this week's Radio Times, TV chef Gary Rhodes tells you how to create blackened chicken.

Kadiolimes

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

10 ave . The

and and

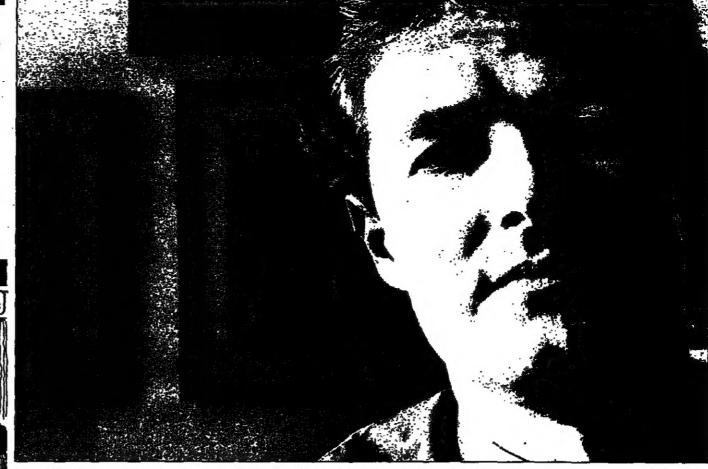
Budget leak crisis

How the Mirror cracked



Andrew Culf and Roy Greenslade on the bizarre game of cat : and mouse started by the leak of Budget details





Editor Piers Morgan: I would have been branded the most disgraceful editor of all time and the Mirror the worst paper' PHOTOGRAPH DAVID SELECT

hours two Daily Mirror journalists toiled away in secret, lutent on the most sensational editions in its 93-year history.

it was to be the Budget special to end all Budget specials, hitting the streets with most of the Treasury's secrets hours before Chancellor Kenneth Clarke addressed the Commons yesterday.

The journalists involved

had been moved from the Mirror's notoriously leaky editorial offices on the 22nd floor of Canary Wharf, in London's Docklands. Editor Plers Morgan spirited his political editor Kevin Maguire and business editor Clinton Manning to the 20th floor, where there are secure computer terminals—and there they wrote a nals - and there they wrote a dozen strong stories from bundles of leaked Budget

But at about 6.30pm on Monday Mr Morgan — after a vigorous debate with the reporters, several senior members of staff and Mirror Group executive Charles Wil-son — took the decision not to

gling was over how to return

OR more than six surances from the Mirror. It papers if the documents were bours two Daily reacted with a mixture of panish ic and ruthlesaness, reaching there was huge anxiety at its totled away in for the legal bludgeon of an injunction. In spite of the Mirror ing around, one said. ror's verbal promises, the Government was not willing to take the risk. While Mr Major and Mr Clarke were alerted, a Mirror lawyer was told Philip Havers, counsel acting for the Treasury, would be contacting a judge to seek an injunction.

Mr Havers was well placed to find a judge: he was in the Gerrick, a haunt beloved of barristers, the judiciary and journalists. By the time the Mirror had faxed a form of

words guaranteeing their promise, a judge had already been found and granted an order just after 8pm. Mr Morgan said the Gov-

Fifty minutes later in Downing Street, Jonathan Haslam, John Major's press secretary, took a call from the Mirror editor.

"He was pretty shocked," said Mr Morgan. "There was a long silence and I gave assurances we would not publish — and most of the haggling was over how to return

Mr Morgan said the Government's move was unnecessary. "It does not take a genius to work out that once the Daily Mirror had informed Downing Street we were in possession of a substantial section of the Chancellor's Budget, they would seek legal remedy to try to prevent publication."

But Mr Haslam had warned.

But Mr Haslam had warned

Mr Morgan insisted his only condition for returning the papers was that the Mirror's door was closed, the equivalent of a Do Not Disturb sign; rival journalists responsible behaviour; an official quote was issued by Number 10: "It is responsible of the Mirror to recomine near the Commons press gainery the Commons press gainery the Commons press gainery the Commons press gainery to east the Mirror's door was closed, the equivalent of a Do Not Disturb sign; rival journalists said the Mirror's team was in of the Mirror to recognise pre-mature disclosure of any Bud-

get material would be against the public interest."

Reporter Anthony Harwood handed the papers to a police-man at the gates of Downing Street at 10.30pm, telling him the Chanceller would need the Chancellor would need them in the morning.

Mr Morgan said: "I'd hoped we could have handed them over at the door, with a picture of Ken Clarke coming out in his slippers."
But discussions continued

with Number 10 because not left lying on a desk and we sent them back when asked," Mr Morgan said.

Shortly after midnight, the Government had all the papers back under lock and key back under lock and key—
and the Mirror had its story.
Over five pages— under the
splash headline: "Enrinsive:
Tory shambles of the decade.
Budget secrets leaked to the
Mirror"— it refrained from
printing the details.

"Some people have said any
decent journalist would have
published—but I would have
been branded the most disgraceful editor of all time and

the documents."

the Mirror, which begins its graceful editor of all time and the Mirror inside the Mirror that it is more than a spring to mirror inside the Mirror that it is more than a spring to mirror inside the Mirror than a spring tha

causing damage to the mar-kets," Mr Morgan said. His political staff were less

happy. Unusually, at 11pm, in the Commons press gallery



despair that one of the higgest-political accops of all time had been denied them.

While the Mirror was cen-soring itself, at the Sun's Wapping headquarters, editor Stuart Higgins was busy all were returned. "It was not deliberate. We gave 64 pages About 640,000 copies were to back, but the remainder were carry a "Sun Budget exclu-

sive — Ip off tax today".

Mr Morgan said it was a spoiler based on guesswork, after Monday's News at Ten — and not the Mirror's documents. "It said the inheritance tax starting point was going to be £250,000, which I knew for a fact was wrong."
But sources at Wapping in-

sisted the documents had been leaked to it by someone from the Mirror — and the discrepancy over inheritance tax was down to a sub-editor mistakenly changing £215,000 to £250,000.

According to Mirror insiders, its newsdesk was called

Mr Morgan would not comment on the source and claimed to be unaware of Fleet Street rumours that the documents had been touted around several papers.

Asked whether the Mirror

from the Scottish Office.

had been asked for payment, he said: "We have not paid any money. I am not going into details of the source or private arrangements. The motive behind this was not financial - it was to cause embarrassment.'

Last night it emerged that a freelance investigative jour-nalist was the man who contacted the Mirror.

Whitehall sources were fingering printers rather than civil servants as the likely ul-

pentium

100 per cent security record. Last week, the company announced it was shedding 950

Many of the key Budget documents such as the Chan cellor's Red Book, which de-tails public spending and taxation commitments, are printed at London Print Ser vices, in Walworth, south London, a site protected by video surveillance cameras and security alarms.

of its 2,500 workers.

Workers said they had been told some of their colleagues were to be questioned. One said the job losses had created "a very bad atmosphere in the print plant". Another said: "Normally, security is very tight because the management are very concerned about leaks."

about leaks." be handed out to journalists In Whitehall, Sir Robin But- after Mr Clarke sat down.

day. When journalists met the contact they were handed uments, said it was launching an investigation after suggestions that some of its staff could have been involved, alcustoms and Excise and one though it boasts a previous clerk investigation. Police will have been involved in collations that some of its staff could have been involved, alcustoms and Excise and one though it boasts a previous clerk investigation. Police will have been involved in collations that some of its staff out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned dered an immediate leak involved in the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned dered an immediate leak involved in the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned dered an immediate leak involved in the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned dered an immediate leak involved in the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Office's second the Civil Service, or dered an immediate leak involved in the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Office's second the Civil Service, or dered an immediate leak involved in the department concerned out by the Cabinet Office's second the Civil Service, or dered an immediate leak involved in the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the departments concerned out by the Cabinet Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary and also investigate.

Although Budget papers are



crets Act, it is made clear to civil servants they face the sack if they divulge details be-fore the Chancellor's speech. Papers leaked to the Mirror consisted of press notices to

ing the press releases for 2,800 media packs, which were not prepared by officials at the

Treasury until after the leak. Mr Morgan insisted the decision not to publish was his and denied there had been a rift with other senior executives. "Having a good laugh at the Government is usually right up our street, but what markets? We could not justify it because we did not know how much damage it would cause by just lobbing it into

the paper."
"I discussed it with David
"I discussed it with David Montgomery [Mirror Group's chief executive]. The implications were pretty huge."

Additional reporting: Ewen MacAskill, Richard Norton-Taylor, Vivek Chaudhary and

David Hencke

Would you have published the leaked documents? Editors reply



Richard Addis, Editor, the Daily Express: "We would not have published."

7



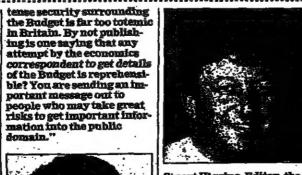
Will Hutton, Editor, the Observer: "Normally my answer is to publish, to get important documents into the public domain as quickly as possible. The in-



ble? You are sending an im-

Guardian: "The Guardian has had its share of accurate Budget leaks. If they could have been authenticated I would have published a well-informed piece based on the documents. I don't think it was very clever to send the papers back to the Govern-ment sluce they could well

Alan Rusbridger, Editor, the



Stuart Higgins, Editor, the Sun: "If we were sure that the documents were authentic then we would publish."

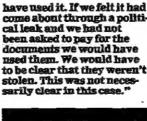


Andrew Marr. Editor, the Independent: "If some Tory politician had passed us the Budget you bet we would

In short, The Wizard of Oz is a non-stop orgy

of drugs and violence; and yet its video is still certified as "U - Suitable For All". Will no one -

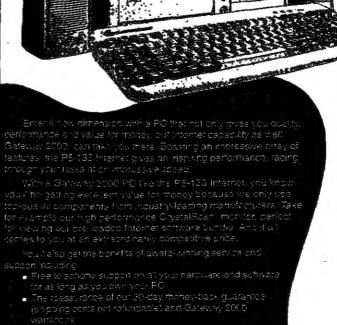
not even the Daily Mail — protect us from this filth?



gitimate journalistic means it is not a newspaper's job to keep government secrets."



Sunday Times: "First you have to establish whether the documents are accurate and true and that they were not stolen. Once all that had been done we would pub-lish. I don't think the market would have reacted in an extraordinary manner. As long as the documents have been obtained by le-



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G2 page 7

News in brief

Police seize record haul of cannabis

POLICE have seized £2.5 million worth of cannabis during a raid at a former mushroom farm in Rushyford, Co Durham, in what is believed to be the largest seizure of its kind in Britain.

Seven people were arrested.

Detectives from Durham police and officers from the Northeast regional crime squad discovered three polythene produc-tion tunnels each 50 metres long and four metres high. Two contained 2,000 mature plants. Also seized was heating, ventilation and lighting equipment. Also seized was neating, ventila-tion and lighting equipment. Growers were using a system which requires chemicals and water but no soil. Detective Chief Inspector Paul Green of Durham police said: "I am extremely pleased with the outcome of what has been a long and exhaustive inquiry."

Drug mother gets probation

A MOTHER who injected herself and her two young sons with lethal drugs was put on probation in a London court for two years

yesterday.

The 31-year-old hospital pharmacy technician from the Isle of Sheppey. Kent, stole temazepam tablets and phials of insulin from work and administered them to her sons. Maidstone crown court was told at a hearing last month.

Distressed at the breakup of her relationship with a man, she administered the same lethal dose to herself. Her elder son, aged name at the time, woke. Unable to wake either his mother or his eight-year-old brother, he dialted 999.

While being treated afterwards, the mother had said: "I have got no one to take care of the children. Just let us die."

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had admitted two charges of administering a noxious substance so as to endanger life in November last year.

to endanger life in November last year.

Shooting clubs thumbs down

THREE shooting clubs near Dunblane — including one used by the mass murderer Thomas Hamilton — have been expelled by

the mass murderer Thomas Hamilton — have been expelled by the local sports council.

Stirling Sports Council voted to end the clubs' membership and to refund their £50 affiliation fees after an 11-2 vote.

Council chairman Gillie Thomson said: "After the Dumblane tragedy, nothing can justify support for handguns in any form. We owe it to the people of Stirling to dissociate ourselves from any organisation that uses firearms."

The three clubs — Callander Bille and Pixel Club, which

The three clubs — Callander Rifle and Pistol Club, which Hamilton visited, Killin Gun Club and the Bridge of Allan and Stirring small size Rifle Club — have been affiliated to the local sports council since 1961.

Jailed Kurd is freed

A KURD jailed in Britain for two years on the grounds of national security and for unspecified reasons of "a political nature", was freed yesterday. Sezai Ucar, aged 27, wanted by the Turkish authorities, was released from Rochester prison, said his lawyer,

Pierre Machouls.

His release follows a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights last week that Karamjit Singh Chahal, a Sikh leader jailed on national security grounds, had been held illegally. According to his lawyer, Mr Ucar had been tortured when

detained by the Turkish security forces before seeking asylum in Britain. He has been given leave to remain here, though it is not

Bozan Ates, another Kurd held on national security grounds, is expected to be released from Belmarsh prison, south east London, today. — Richard Norton-Taylor

Morrison charged with affray

RETURN of the Mack star Mark Morrison was yesterday charged

with two criminal offences after answering ball at a west London police station. The 24-year-old singer was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon and affray, following an incident at an all night supermarket last month. Morrison arrived at Notting Hill police station at 2pm with his

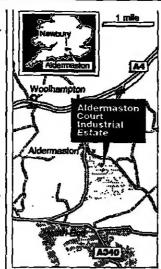
solicitor and two other men who declined to give their names. After one hour they left without comment.

will appear on January 7 at Marylebone magistrates' court on two charges, of possession of a prohibited weapon and affray. This relates to incidents on October 20 at a food and wine store in Notting Hill Gate."

Morrison, from Leicester, had a number one hit with Return of the Mack and has scored in the singles charts since.

Award for Guardian reporter

CHRIS MIHILL, the Guardian's medical correspondent, was yes terday named winner of the British Medical Association's medical journalist of the year award for the best journalistic contribu-tion to the public understanding of health or medicine.



Damages of £6m were awarded against the Ministry of Defence in the **High Court** yesterday after it waited two years to admit contamination of a site Paul Brown reports



Plutonium leak kept secret

the Ministry of Defence yesterday causing radioactive cor tamination of an industrial estate next to its nuclear weapons plant at Aldermaston, in Berkshire.

Blue Circle Industries had sued the ministry because it said a £10.6 million deal to sail the estate collapsed when the purchaser found it had been contaminated with pluto-nium. There is no evidence that anyone suffered contami-nation in the incident.

AMAGES of 26 contamination had been and without making plans to small stream, which flooded million were known "up to ministerial remedy the problem. He did into marshland and a lake on awarded against level" for two years before it not feel that Sun could the 137 acre_Aldermaston. remedy the problem. He did not feel that Sun could level" for two years before it was disclosed to Blue Circle. it was not until the sale was almost complete that the min-istry sanctioned dislosure.

Mr Justice Carnworth, giving Judgment, said Clive Merredew, an executive of Sun Micro-systems, a US company which was to buy the site, was shocked the contamination had been disclosed so late. "It destroyed his confidence in the Atomic Weapons Establishment's management. They had ation in the incident.

Although the extent of the without telling Blue Circle

require its staff to move to a site with plutonium contamination." Subsequently 1,000 cubic

metres of soil were removed at a cost of £350,000, and Blue Circle's own office workers now occupy the site along with a number or smaller companies which rent office space. There is a 34-bedroom hotel and conference centre. Contamination was caused when 5%in of rain fell in a freak storm on July 6, 1989.

Ponds on the AWE Alder-

Court Estate. This contained a Victorian manor house used as a hotel and a modern office block. The AWE staff checked the area shortly after the storm and discovered the contamination had spilled on to the industrial estate, but did not tell the owners.

The High Court found this was in contravention of the Nuclear Installation Act 1965. Furthermore, the management of AWE deliberately withheld the information despire warnings that it could rebound on them later. maston site overflowed into a

A memo dated November | from both HM Inspector of 1989 said: "It may be consid- Pollution and the Ministry of ered that it is essential for Blue Circle lands' management to be informed of the initial results so that relationships are not soured by seem-ingly deliberate withholding of information by AWS." The advice was not taken.

In July 1990 another note said disclosure of plutonium presence outside the aite would "bring odium on AWE

and difficult PR" but "it seeking damages. It was a would indefensible to keep it regrettable incident, but we from Blue Circle". Again the | are now satisfied that the conadvice was ignored.

Over the next two years up to there was increasing pressure satisfaction.

collansed.

chief executive of Blue Circle Industries, said: "The judg-ment has completely viudicated the company's action in tamination has been cleaned

Pollution and the Ministry of

Agriculture for the AWE to disclose the contamination.

but it was not until January

1993 that it handed over docu-

ments detalling contamina-

tion. The proposed sale then

Keith Orrell-Jones, group

Aldermaston villager explains why fears of a leak from the local atomic weapons plant are all just so much ancient history

WHEN Roger Brown that the contamination could have occurred, he flood that had poured through 30 homes and the Atomic Weapons Establishprimary school in Alder-maston village four years earlier may have contained plutonium he demanded a public inquiry.

ment, which makes Trident missile warheads, was

being so secretive. The freak storm which caused a lake dam to burst on the nearby Blue Circle Not only was he alarmed

running behind houses in | had not been told." ton Righ Street had become a raging tor-rent which flooded houses and meant half the village had to be evacuated — but no one mentioned the extra hazard of radioactivity.

Yesterday Mr Brown, who was then the district councillor for the village and is now chairman of the parish council, said: "That was a very bad day in 1993. I was stunned and upset school playground to make and we wanted reassurance. We were not at all radioactivity. "We discov-I was stunned and upset and we wanted reassur-

industrial estate in 1989 happy about the secrecy, ered that the AWE had all ple of years ago. We are not had meant that the stream We wanted to know why we ready taken samples to worried about Aldermas-The decision yesterday brought those events back

to him, but he said that since then the new manage-ment at AWE had "done everything possible to reas-At his request, Newbury

borough council had paid for the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) to take samples in gardens and in the primary

reassure themselves that ton. It gives 5,000 people the plutonium that reached the Blue Circle site had not the value of our houses." come as far as the village.
"A man from the NRPB

addressed a meeting of the village. We did not understand a word of it, but went away feeling a lot better." Mr Brown is a member of the local liaison committee set up as a result of the 1993

sare to inform the village of any problems.
"We went back to planting vegetables in our garHe said that Blue Circle was entitled to protect its

own commercial interest but, as far as the village was concerned, it was a historic incident. "We are allowed access to the industrial site and the lake that caused all the trouble. "People walk round it be

cause it is very pretty. We do not worry about getting contaminated, we are sure dens and eating them a cou- | all that has been removed."

50,000 drivers join lorry blockade, reports Alex Duval Smith

French truck drivers dispute halts Status Quo tour

OCK fans in Belfast were last night wondering what they bad done to deserve the wrath of French lorry drivers, after Status Quo's Can't Stop tour ground to a half at a blockade in Calais. As the number of road blocks increased to more than 200 across France, the impact of the drivers' eight-day dis-pute spread. Lorries carrying instruments and sound equip-ment for Kiss and Metallica

were also stranded. Status Quo, who were due to appear at the Ulster Hall last night and tonight before moving on to Dungannon and Dublin, said the disruption caused by French lorry working conditions was the worst to hit the band.

Its lead singer, Francis Rossi, said: "We're stuck in Belfast doing the Guardian crossword and all our equipment is on two lorries in Calais. It's incredibly frustrat ing because in all the band's history, we've got through showstorms and bad weather to get to gigs. We have only ever cancelled six or seven

French toy manufacturers yesterday joined the chorus of calls from the country's car, food, packaging and distribu-tion industries for a rapid conclusion to talks between five transport unions and haulage companies, now in their sixth round.

Up to 50,000 French drivers of articulated lorries have joined the dispute, claiming that their employers do not



Status Quo, whose Can't Stop tour has been halted

for retirement at the age of 55. I tinued to clog up French ports Some 700 British lorrles and at least as many from each of France's other neighbouring countries have become stuck in motorway and port

By yesterday afternoon, about 100 British drivers had taken ferries back to Dover, some leaving their trailers in Calais and others taking their loads with them.

Tesco began its promised airlift of fresh fruit and vegetables but said the extra cost would not be passed on to cus-tomers. Sainsbury's and Safeway said they might for an end to the dispute and respect European agreements start flying supplies in if the underlined on driving time and calling action by lorry drivers concompensation.

and towns.
With no sign of an end to the dispute, there were in-creasing fears that small British freight and food businesses could go bust.

Even when they finally get out of the blockade, drivers could face a long fight in the French courts to get compensation for damaged vehicles and rotting foodstuffs.

John Major told the Commons yesterday that Sir George Young the Transport Secretary, had written to his French counterpart calling start flying supplies in if the underlined the need for

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNET

After the European Commission yesterday criticised the French government, say-ing the dispute bindered the free movement of goods, the French foreign ministry instructed prefects around the country to handle claims for damages from foreign

companies.
While leftwing unions in other sectors — including agriculture, rail and the police - encouraged members to take sympathy action today, their call looked unlikely to be widely heeded. The main lorry drivers' union, the rightwing CFDT, argued that a general strike would weaken support

Rough justice site wins award

Maev Kennedy Heritage Correspo

NOTTINGHAM museum where visitors are treated as criminals yesterday won the Gulben-kian Prize for its outstanding achievements in its first year. Lloyd Grossman, present-ing the annual Gulbenkian awards for excellence in mu-seums, said he had emerged from the Galleries of Justice, housed in a Grade II* listed Georgian courts and prison complex in Nottingham city centre, thinking "Ugh, how horrible".

Visitors are given a prison number, subjected to a trial, and marched down to the con-demned cells from which death on the gallows in the prison yard, or transportation, were the only escape.
The building, which includes perfectly preserved

Victorian court rooms, Georgian and Victorian prison blocks, bath house and laun-dry, and an Edwardian police station, was saved from a developer by a charitable trust, and is intended to become a national museum of law. The other buildings will be opened up over the next few

years, with a 24.2 million lot-Staff were looking for a cells on the site.

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Eric Wilkinson in the caves he found beneath the old city jail

blocked up Victorian passage to the laundry, to improve visitor access, when building supervisor Ernie Wilkinson broke through a brick wall and found a complex of unrec orded medieval caves. Archaeologists are still studying them, but believe they may have been the earliest prison

Services Ltd

At the awards ceremony the general election. "Museyesterday in the British Museum, Mr Grossman urged
people to lobby fiercely for
museums between now and sure of a decent society."

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The Guardian

US to evacuate aid

workers from Iraq

WASHINGTON has offered to evacuate about 5,000 people from northern Iraq to protect them from President Saddam Hussein's secret police. The offer, announced by a state department spokesman, Glyn Davies, applies to employees of non-governmental organisations affiliated to the United States, and their immediate

The move underlines the continued instability of the predom-

Greece turns on migrants

ielena Smith in Athena

THENS is poised to pass legislation that pass legislation that will turn Greece tions of Fortress

Europe after years in which its porous borders have been regarded as the Achilles' heel of the European Union.

Awash with illegal immigrants and political refugees, Greece has finally made plans to put on a legal, if precarious, flooting hundreds of thousands of impoverished emigres whose dream is to move west.

whose dream is to move west.
The new Socialist government hopes the proposed measures will please Brussels mandarins critical of the country's immigration controls.

magnet for migration from the Middle East, Africa, the Balkans and former Soviet republics. With its long, unwieldly coastline and mountainous terrain, officials say it is increasingly being

viewed as the most accessible back door into Europe. The arrival of about 500,000 immigrants in the EU's poorest state has provoked racism, even though memories are still fresh of Greece's own em-igrants salling for Australia and the United States after the second world war.

But the Greek govern-ment's attempts to tighten up on immigration have brought unexpected criticism. The mi-grant bill has been unant-

Since the collapse of com- mously condemned by the numism, Greece has become a country's powerful trade unions, who have denounced it for its zenophobic tone.

"The entire decree is atmed towards policing," said Zoe Sokou, of the General Confederation of Greek Workers. "The issue is not simply to stem the flow of illegal immigrants to Europe, or to please Brussels — which is clearly what it wants to do — but of treating these people in a treating these people in a humanitarian way."

Opponents of the new measures fear they will lead to mass expulsion. Under the law, emigres will be granted. mass expulation. Under the law, emigres will be granted six-month permits to live and work in Greece upon arrival. This would only be renewed if authorities deemed the labour market demanded it.

when Saddam Hussein's troops intervened in the civil war between northern Iraq's rival-Kurdish factions.

They have languished in overcrowded conditions reminiscent of the rafuges camps of the Yugoslav wars.

"It is a very clever way of unearthing migrants, who are currently forced to work in appalling conditions on the black market, and then deporting them when their time is up." Ms Sokou said.

Nowhere is the furore more evident than in the Athenian consider subwith of Achier An-

evident than in the Athenan seaside suburb of Aghio An-dreas, where about 1,600 Iraqi Kurds seeking political asylum are staying. The Kurds were moved to a children's summer camp after

arriving en masse last August when Saddam Hussein's

"All we want is to be given our minimum rights as politiour minimum rights as political asylum seekers," said Abu Ali, a Baghdad lawyer. "Many of us walked for up to 40 days to get to the land of democracy. We risked our lives crossing heavily mined land borders — and now Greece will only give us a six-month permit to live and work here."

Tomorrow, the Greek parliament will also start debating a new law on political refugees. Like most Western states, Greece is reluctant to grant asylum to migrants,

grant asylum to migrants, even though growing num-bers say they are fleeing polit-ical persecution.

A spate of violent incidents involving refugees ferried

smugglers working out of Turkey have raised fears that bone fide asylum seekers are being ignored.

In the summer, Athens cre ated a special task force of coastguards to crack down on

eva Convention, the requests of these people have to be heard under human and humane conditions," said Janvier de Riedmatten, the repre entative in Athens of the United Nations High Commis-sioner for Refugees. "Unlike any other EU member, Greece is surrounded by non-EU countries whose citizens may have good reason to leave. There is definitely room for improvement in its laws gov-erning refugee status."

in antly Kurdish area of Iraq three months after Baghdad's army overran it during fighting among rival groups.

Employees of 24 US-based or US-funded relief organisations were left behind when the administration evacuated American he traffickers. "As a signatory to the Gen

were left behind when the administration evacuated American citizens, foreigners employed directly by the US government and members of CIA-backed Iraqi opposition groups.

The administration had hoped that it would be safe for NGOs to remain in northern Iraq. The decision to pull them out now effectively ends the five-year effort by the US and its allies to protect Kurds and other opponents of President Hussein's government who rebelled against Baghdad following the Gulf war. — Los Angeles Times, Washington.

World news in brief

Threat to American forces

ACLANDESTINE Islamic group in Saudi Arabia yesterday threatened to attack United States forces in the kingdom unless jailed Muslim militants are freed.

The statement by the Movement for Islamic Change was the econd since the truck bombing of a US military complex in eastern Saudi Arabia last June in which 19 Americans died. In its statement, the group gave Saudi authorities until the end of Ramadan — mid-February — to accede to the demands. "Our response will be in a language understood by the imperialist American fighters and the criminals of Al Saud [the Saudi ruling family]." the statement said. — AP, Dubai.

Aznar offends Cuba

RELATIONS between Spain and Cuba hit an all time low yester

RELATIONS between Spain and Cuba hit an all time low yester-day after Havana appears to have caught Madrid's new conservative government off guard by rejecting its ambassador to the island in protest at "flagrant interference" in its affairs. Spain's foreign minister, Abel Matutes, described the move as "a huge mistake", and told reporters: "It's surprising."

He added: "It shows the extent to which Cuba is unwilling to lengage in dialogue". But he ruled out breaking off diplomatic relations and said Spain did not want a fight.

Cuba's foreign ministry said it was revoking the official approval initially granted the new ambassador — due to take up his posting next month — because of "macceptable statements and attitudes on the part of the Spanish government".

The clash lays bare a confrontation simmering since Spain's conservative prime minister, José Maria Aznar, infuriated Cuba's leader, Fidel Castro, by sharply criticising his regime.

Cuba's leader. Fidel Castro, by sharply criticising his regime. Spain has also proposed that the European Union insist on democratic reforms in return for continuing aid to Cuba. — Adela

Hong Kong law change

IN A move certain to irritate China, Britain yesterday announced plans to amend Hong Kong's laws on treason and crimes against

plans to amend hong Kong's laws on treason and trimes against
the state, pre-empting the introduction of anti-subversion laws
after the colony is handed back to Beijing next summer.

The action follows the jalling in China of dissidents on charges
of subversion, a crime that does not exist in Hong Kong but is
included in its future constitution, the China-drafted Basic Law.

"This is obviously going to be controversial but time is
wanting out "said a conjet British official"

running out," said a senior British official.

Article 23 of the Basic Law mandates a catch-all ban on subversion. Legislation to go before Hong Kong's Legislative Council defines subversion, secession, treason and sedition as acts involving violence — far narrower than the Chinese view. — Andrew Higgins, Hong Kong.

Detained pair 'not hijackers'

ETHIOPIAN radio yesterday identified the two men, a Kenyan and a Dilbourian, held as suspected hitackers of the let which crash-landed in the Comoro Islands and confirmed that they back no connection" with the incident.

However, police in the Comoran capital, Moroni, refused to release them. A team from Addis Ababa sent to investigate the incident said that the three hijackers had definitely been Ethiotian, and that "there was no hope that they had survived". One of the men being held, Suleiman Ahmed, is a prominent The play will run in repertory at the Berliner En-semble alongside Brecht's

nember of the Union of Djiboutian Teachers — viewed by Ethio pia's government with suspicion — who was travelling to Benin. The teachers' union contacted international organisations who obbied the Comoros government on Mr Ahmed's behalf. — Alice Martin, Addis Ababa.

Death squads linked to army

ACTING on advice from United States military advisers, Colombia's armed forces reorganised intelligence operations in the early 1990s, tightening ties between the army and paramilitaries who have been accused of killing civilians, a human rights report

Released in Bogots on Monday by Human Rights Watch/Amer icas, the report chronicles a pattern of disappearances and kill-ings by "self-defence" groups, whose members are frequently protected by military units.

In some instances, it said, Colombian army units that receive US aid have barred government investigators or prosecutors from arresting those implicated in the killings of civilians.

The Human Rights Watch report is the second in two months to assert that US aid to Colombia is being used in the military's war against leftwing guerrillas. — New York Times, Bogotá.

Protest at Bhopal climbdown



VICTIMS of the 1984 gas leak from the fertiliser plant in Bhopal squatted outside parliament in New Delhi yesterday to protest against the dropping of nanslaughter charges against executives of Union Carbide. More than 15,000 people have died as a resul the leak. Last month, the Supreme Court overruled a lower court and reduced the charges to criminal negligence. AP in New Delhi.

Literary classic found

AN original manuscript of a Japanese literary classic has turned up in a secondhand bookshop three centuries after it was written. The Narrow Road, written by Basho Matsuo around 1690, is considered a masterpiece of Japanese literature and was written during his travels through the then-remote north.

The manuscript belongs to the owner of a secondhand book-shop in Osaka who decided to have it appraised by experts after his home was damaged in the Kobe earthquake last year and it was plucked from the rubble. Scholars concluded it was likely to be in Basho's own handwriting. - AP. Tokyo.

Denis Staunton in Berlin reports on a sympathic portrayal of Hitler's lover without PC pretensions

Unlikely heroine Braun takes a bow

HR BERLINER Ensem-ble, the theatre founded by Bertolt Brecht that became the cul-tural showpiece of commu-nist East Germany, has discovered an unlikely hero-ine — Eva Braun. Hitler's lover will be given her mos sympathetic treatment ever on a German stage when a new play opens at the theatre on Friday. Eva, Hitler's Geliebte (Eva, Hitler's Mistress)

stars Corinna Harfouch, Germany's most sought-after film actress, as the doomed Braun, who died with Hitler in his Berlin bunker on 30 April, 1945. It is set in the bunker during the hours between the couple's marriage and their joint suicide, while Braun imagines that a

made about her life. "The play is very politi-cally incorrect in places," Suschke, in the dingy artists' canteen at the theatre. "The audience identifies with Braun sometimes, as well as being critical of her at others. It's too easy to

say, what happened to her couldn't happen to me." Braun, who met Hitler in 1929 when she was an assistent at a photographer's shop in Munich, was unher lifetime. Hitler scrupu-lously kept his private and of the latest fashions. She

ns award



Nap time for Hitler . . . The Führer dozes off while Eva Braun, his lover for 16 years, looks on in this archive photograph

avoiding any discussion of politics at home and keep-ing his relationship with Braun secret from the Ger-

man public. She saw Eltier once or twice a month, spending most of her time at their Bavarian mountain retreat known in Germany during | watching films and collect"She's something of a

myth in Germany, but rela-fively little is known about her," said the playwright, Stefan Kolditz. "She was a woman with a simple, almost banal yearning for happiness who found her-self at the side of a man

tics and appears never to have criticised Hitler's together for 16 years but actions. achieve what she wanted marriage — a few hours be-fore her death. We have a woman who has just got what she has wanted all her life, but knows her happi-ness can only last a few hours."

public lives separate, | took little interest in poli- | who nearly devastated the | ters and home movies made ing the play and he claims that the Sunset Boulevardstyle conceit at its centre is hased on fact.

an actress and we know that Hitler promised her that if he won the war he

Resistable Rise of Arturo "She always wanted to be Suschke admits to being unsure about what Brecht would think. "I don't know

whether he'd like this play ness can only last a few would send her to Holly-but if it provoked a politi-burs."

Kolditz used private let-film of his life," he said.

but if it provoked a political debate, I'm sure he'd enjoy that," he said.

Serb TV shuns embryonic revolution

Julian Borger in Belgrade

ESTERDAY'S edition of Folitika, the newspaper run by Serbia's ruling party, carried stories about the country's glowing economic potential, a visiting Greek delegation, and the advantages of traditional Orthodox cookery. The biggest pro-test movement for more than five years went unreported.

Despite driving rain yesterday, more than 100,000 people took to the streets of Belgrade again to protest at govern-ment election-rigging. Again the march failed to get on the official radio or television

news. President Slobodan Milosevic has imposed a press gag which Serbian journalists say is more restrictive than anything they faced under his predecessor Josip Broz Tito. predecessor Josip Broz Tito.
The best-known opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic, called on Serbian soldiers yesterday to join the demonstrations, which began last week after the authorities cancelled local elections in cities which had been won by the opposition Zajedno (Together) alliance.
The police have not yet in-The police have not yet in-tervened to break up the dem-onstrations. President Milose vie's policy appears to be to sit tight and act as if the pro-

work on the presses - its print run would be reduced from 200,000 to 80,000. Blic's editor, Manollo Vukotic, said yesterday: "We may have to photocopy some of the pages and give them out free. But there is a lot of pressure on us. We've got our backs to the wall."

Forty-five Politika journal-

lsts issued a petition yester-day criticising their editors for their "unprofessional cov-erage of current events". News bulletins on state-owned television have also concentrated on the visit by members of the Greek social-

members of the Greek social-ist party, Pasok.

They have also run a fea-ture on the quality of univer-sity food, ignoring the fact that most Belgrade students are either staging sit-ins or have taken to the streets. The have taken to the streets. The television reporter, however, slipped in a reference to the continuing protests with a few questions on how students liked their eggs cooked.

Eggs have become the symbol of this wave of demonstrations.

lobbed at public buildings on Monday, opposition leaders have been referring hopefully to an "egg revolution".

B92, an independent radio station, was offering eggs yesterday to the winner of a call-in competition. At the offices tests were not happening.

The only major newspaper to have reported the demonstrations, Blic. was told yesterday by its state-owned printers that — due to previously unannounced repair

Pyramid riches seduce Albania

Joanna Robertson in Tirana reports on the huge returns grimy lek notes, is Sokol. He grins and says that he has investors can expect on their sayings. Unless the hubble bursts just sold his flat. He expects investors can expect on their savings. Unless the bubble bursts

usually filled with drinkers. This morning it is almost Kristina, the waitress, ex-

plains that most of her customers have gone to collect their monthly payouts from the high-interest pyramid schemes that have become wildly popular in Europe's

poorest country.

Kristina, aged 20, is a history student at Tirana university. She earns 530 a month waitressing and recently put her savings into a scheme called Demokracia Popullore Khaferri. If the bubble doesn't burst, her 70,000 lek (£410) inent will double in value in three months.

At first, she says, she was reluctant. But she watched her friend Zana make more than £3,000. She lives with the rest of her family in one cramped flat, but Kristina says things are looking up.

WUDDLED among the Her father has invested his tal was greeted with derision by some elements of the press convinced of the infallibility of the schemes, and a new slower.

In 1994, two similar pyra-mid schemes in Romania and Russia collapsed. Caritas had sucked in about 2500 million from hard-pressed Roma-nians. In Moscow the mastermind of the MMM schem was arrested in August but later freed. His scheme had turned 10 million investors' stock certificates into worthless paper overnight.
The lek has reached its

strongest level against the US dollar for more than two years as Albanians continue to invest in the pyramid schemes. But the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have expressed serious concerns.

A delegation from the IMF is on a mission to Tirana to examine the financial situa-tion but was reluctant to comment until after the close of its investigation yesterday. The team's arrival in the capi-

of the schemes, and a new slogan — "poshte FMN" (down with the IMF) — is swelling the graffiti around town.

With companies offering in-

terest rates of up to 50 per cent per month on deposits, the temptation to invest has led to a frenzy of selling, and stealing to raise cash.

Gene is queueing in the mud outside the deposit office

cash deposited in her scheme during the next five days.

of a Gypsy woman offering to pay 50 per cent per month on

slaughtered his small flock of sheep when news of the interest rate reached him and brought the cash straight to brought the cash straight to Tirana. With no sheep left he is no longer a farmer but plans to live instead on the monthly interest payments —

they are reluctant to com-ment on how they find the cash to pay their creditors so Spending the profits is more widely publicised. Mr Xhaferri, the man behind the

to double his money in just a

lew weeks. In the meantime

he will live with 14 members flat, as his brothers have also

The directors of the

schemes have become un-touchable celebrities. Ques-

tions are not encouraged, and

old their property.

play about Hitler, The

scheme Kristina has invested in, claims to have inherited his wealth from his grand-father in the United States. He is president of Lushnje A peasant from a village in the mountainous north, Gene the mountainous north, Gene thought the mountainous north, Gene the Albanian game to save the Albanian game with his recent purchase of four international players, in-

cluding two Brazilians.

There is less optimism in
Tirana's fruit and vegetable
market. Vendors complain that business is faltering. as long as they last.

Next to him, clutching two carrier bags crammed with People, they say, are buying only bread and milk, preferring to save cash to invest.

THE MOST secretive bureaucracy of the European Union will face unwelcome publicity today for its failure to meet the

the European Ombudsman.

concern meetings in Brus-sels of the highly secretive K4 committee of officials dinates regular meetings of policing and immigration. other ministers the ministers and ambassa. The case is being brought papers released.

dors of member states, to release documents relating to meetings three years ago for documents have been for documents have been repeatedly refused. It is the second such case to attempt to prise open institutions of

> favour of an application by the Guardian and its jour-nalist John Carvel to have other ministerial council

rights.
The Council refused Mr Bunyan's requests on the grounds that he had applied for too many docu-ments and that his requests

Secretive EU institution forced to go public about not being open

Stephen Bates in Brussels

supposed commitment to openness.

The refusal of the European Council, which co-oron justice and home affairs will be referred today to

from member states, which discusses issues relating to

comes a day after the council of ministers' sister body, the European Commission, launched the Citizens First the EU.
Last year the European
Court of Justice ruled in zens' awareness of their

*The*Guardian

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Economically cynical . . . Mr Clarke has played a trick with the figures

dubious attempt to play Scrooge and Santa Claus at the same time. It showers the populace with pre-electoral pop corn (except for peripheralised groups like single parents, who lose their allowances, and payers of "sin" taxes on alcohol and petrol) while pretending to be doing the best thing for the economy. He is doing nothing of the sort. The last thing this economy needs
when consumer spending is already before yesterday's tax cuts and tomorrow's building society windfalls — is fresh cuts in income taxes and allowances worth £3.3 billion a year. It's like trying to put out a smouldering fire by pouring petrol - albeit unleaded - on it. Sure, it is true as the Treasury will argue, that the revenue side of the budget is broadly neutral — with lower income taxes offset by higher indirect taxes including the effects of earlier budget decisions on the tax base — but that doesn't necessarily justify income even after the recent improvement) should have made the Chancellor err on the side of caution. And if there is money available then there are plenty of infrastructural projects which ought to have had priority.

Until yesterday Mr Clarke had been a surprisingly prudent and rightly praised chancellor who was determined to restore the Conservatives' reputation for economic competence after the excesses of previous incumbents. Now he is risking that reputation by trying to have it both ways. During his speech he gave the impression that huge favours worth hundreds and hundreds of millions were being bestowed on the national health service where spending is set to grow by 3 per cent in real terms (after inflation), yet when the Budget Red Book was published it showed that spending on health in real terms (after allowing for inflation) is virtually frozen for the next two years and will decline slightly the following year. Curious that. The discepancy is explained, grammes of hospitals that is going up by 3 per cent in real terms: but this is happening within an overall nearfreeze on health spending in general. Yet health is something that people would happily spend more of their income on if left to themselves. Large sums were also promised for education but, since council spending in general is being squeezed, local authorities strapped for cash will either have to raid their education budgets for other priorities or raise the council tax. And what is the Chancellor's contribution to regard for the consequences.

KENNETH CLARKE'S fourth Budget is the 4.4 million new homes that the a politically shrewd but economically Government tekls us will be needed in the years ahead? Would you believe it. the Housing Corporation, which is the main source of new homes, is having its budget cut from £1 billion this year to £650 million next year. In 4 years (from 1993/94 to 1997/98) the Housing Corporation's budget will have been slashed by two-thirds. The "spend to save" programme — whereby spending of £800 million will save £6.7 billion in when consumer spending is already social security and other fraud over the rising at over 4 per cent a year even next three years and the promises to route out corporate evasions are all very well but it looks a bit like claiming benefits which the next government will have to fulfil. His changes to capital allowances, however, look like a shrewd backdoor way of pre-empting Labour's utility tax — though, front-cally it could be a future Labour government that reaps the reward.

The most worrying part of the budget is the economic judgment itself. Mr Clarke is unashamedly going for broke with a pre-electoral consumer boom. tax cuts. The experience of recent very serious overruns on the public sector by 4.25 per cent — and that may turn borrowing requirement (this year's is out to be an understatement Living £4 billion adrift of last year's estimate standards (as measured by real personal disposable income) are already rising by over 4 per cent when the economy (at the last count) was expanding at only 2.4 per cent. If you add in yesterday's tax cuts and the "wealth" effect of rising house prices plus the prospect of up to £20 billion of hand-outs from privatised building societies, it doesn't take a degree in maths to see what Mr Clarke is really up to. The Treasury says that business investment will rise by 10 per cent next year. We pray it is right — though figures released this week show that total gross capital formation in the econony is contracting by 2.2 per cent despite the 2.4 per cent expansion of GDP. The Budget forecasts state that manufacturing output -- almost stagnant in underlying terms for decades - will rise from 0.25 per cent this year to 3 per cent next year and that export volume will rise by 5.75 per cent in 1997. Yet since August the pound has soared by 10 per cent against other currencies. It looks likely that in the run-up to the election we apparently, by the fact that it is spend- will be thrust into an old-fashioned prement and exports but by consumer spending.

The Chancellor should have tightened his fiscal stance and brought sterling down by intervention on the foreign exchanges and other means instead of raising interest rates which could push the pound up further. So far the outlook is not as bad as the Lawson boom, but that is not a compliment. Behind the superficial prudence of the budget is a cynical attempt to use the economy to win the election with scant

. . . but a political turning point

A Tory Chancellor admits: taxation is a respectable weapon

others in this Parliament have been leading. This was supposedly the big one. From the moment that Conservative popularity collapsed after sterling left the European exchange rate mechanism, this pre-election Budget Day was red-circled in all political diaries. Conventional wisdom held that yesterday was to be the Conservatives' best chance of taking the political initiative, hence the long speculative bysteria about tax cuts, and simultaneously that it was to be the Labour Party's most vulnerable moment, for exactly the same reason. Kenneth Clarke, self-confessedly a "political" rather than an economic Chancellor, was supposed to hold the electoral future of the Tory Gordon Brown were said to regard make-or-break moment for New Labour's electoral credibility.

As so often in politics, the event did not live up to its advance billing. Mr his simplistic right-wing backbenchers Clarke, buoyed by a successful dousing had urged. Partly this was because he gave a second virtuoso parliamentary within the party ranks - a not unimpormany Tories and their right-wing press supporters would like to see sacked. But in other respects he failed to keep to the script that the party cheerleaders had written for him long ago. The big Maastricht Budget and at one point moments conspicuously failed to matepre-election conjuring tricks in 1991. is a lesson that Labour needs to be Mr Major looked grim as his Chancellor | confident enough to profit from too.

IT IS useful to recall, in the cold light of announced a succession of deferred this morning, that to most politicians post-election tax increases which will yesterday was the day to which all fool no one. He seemed even more sombre when Tony Blair delivered the most effective Budget reply speech by a Labour leader in years. Mr Major must have dreamed that with one mighty bound, Mr Clarke might set him free. Yet when the day came, Mr Clarke could only loosen a few bonds, and that by tightening others.

Yet if this Budget Day failed to turn out as spectacularly as both friend and foe had predicted, it could also have been a turning point of an unexpected kind. When it came to it, Mr Clarke had to try to satisfy too many masters to produce the kind of Budget which his party craved. Instead it was both economically reckless and politically cautious at one and the same time. It leaves Party in his hands. Tony Blair and the Government facing both ways at a time when it longed to have an eatheir response to this Budget as the siermessage. In the real world, as distinct from the Thatcherite culture of the Tory party, Mr Clarke could not do the populist things that the tabloids and had urged. Partly this was because he of the Tory Eurosceptics on Monday, was boxed in by higher than expected borrowing. But he was also compelled performance which cannot fail to have to deliver a striking vote of no-confistrengthened his personal position dence in the agenda and the myths which have sustained right-wing antitant achievement for a man whom tax populism here and elsewhere for the past 20 years. Tacitly, the Budgetcontained an admission that taxation is a respectable and necessary weapon. Mr Clarke managed to make it a proeven spoke approvingly about the need rialise as prophesied. The Prime Minis- for ours to be a "caring society", an ter looked tense as he sat listening to unthinkable phrase on Tory lips in the the Chancellor, in marked contrast to post-Heath era. It was a sign that times, the enthusiastic body language with and the political debate, are moving on. which he witnessed Norman Lamont's That is bad news for most Tories, but it



No allowance for a married person An's role in a fluid world

AND MY INVESTIGATIONS HAVE REVEALED TRAT THE GOVERNMENT IS

Rowthorn (Keep it in the family, November 25) have two vital words missing from their misleading and illogical analysis of the potential impact of family breakdown: "women" and "men".

"women" and "men".

Marriage is a more complicated business now than it has ever been. The renegotiation of the rules under which it can work successfully have been influenced less by tax reforms and legislation and far more by the abandonment of traditional ender more (distradisting and armore (distradisting and armore (distradisting and armore (distradisting and armore (distradisting armore (distractional armore tional gender roles (dictated as much by the labour market as feminism), the impact of two jobs on families at one extreme and long-term unemployment at the other, and the differing male and female views of the emotional investment that a modern marriage requires.
Ormerod and Rowthorn

write: "Marriage performs an invaluable social function." What they should have added is that it fulfilled that function in the past because women had no choice but to accept the terms then on offer. Many therefore endured abuse and misery inflicted by their more economically and socially pow erful partners

No matter how many finaninjected into marriage, or how many penalities are shamefully imposed on lone-parent

Joys of Essex

HAVE news for David McKie

AUL Ormerod and Bob families, the desire to con-Rowthorn (Keep it in the struct a decent relationship between two human beings will continue — as will the deter-mination to end the contract if conditions become unbearable. So, better to argue for im-proved education which permits young people to acquire skills, qualifications and aspi-

rations beyond teenage mar-riage and premature mother-hood Better to argue for more jobs and family-friendly pollcies in the workplace that east the pressure on parents. New research shows that seven out of 10 fathers keep in regular contact with their children several years after the divorce. And many will testify that modern extended families which include step-parents, co-habitees and half-brothers and sisters fare as well as "nor

mal" families Ormerod and Rowthorn ask, if the present rate of family breakdown continues, who will care for the elderly in 30 or 40 years time? The answer, of course, is women. Just as they do now.

Yvonne Roberts. 24 Englewood Road, Rowthorn's advice to the Chancellor was long on gen-Chancellor was long on gen-eralised assertion about the importance of marriage but rather short on practical poli-cies that could bring muchneeded help to families. It is ironic that those who argue loudest about the special and central status of marriage at the same time believe that the institution is so frail as to be undermined by relatively

minor changes in the tax-benefits system. Ormerod and Rowthorn assert that they do not want to penalise lone parents, having criticised the "preferential" treatment received by this

But to remove this "preferential" treatment, meagre as it is, would penalise lone parents relative to their cur-rent position, for the present Chancellor has already shown that he is more interested in levelling down than

levelling up.

A Budget designed to support families in fulfilling their responsibilities, rather Perhaps what really concerns them is not the fragility of family ties but the fragility of male security now that women no longer know their responsibilities, rather than to promote a particular family structure, would prioritise; higher child benefits, and other benefits for child-gar. dren, money for child-care fa-cilities, and improved bene-fits and services for disabled 100 Park Village East, and older people and those

(Prof) fund Lister.
Department of Social
Sciences,
Loughborough University,
Leicestershire LE11 STU.

WO-PARENT familles not account for "most of the child poverty in Britain". Lone parents have incomes less than half those of couples; those on Income Support receive substantially less than Income Support couples; even those on Family Credit fail to realise their theoretical "M to 29 advantage" and wind up with incomes averaging 80 per cent of Family Credit couples' even including maintenance payments. Where is the incentive to split?

Lone-parent families are not "nearly a fifth" but a quarter of all families, and rising. The only question worth asking now is how are we going to get a third of Britain's children out of the risks of severe hardship they have fallen into apparently with the con-sent of the rest of us? The only sure way is to increase Child Benefit and bang the fiscal consequences. Alan Marsh.

Policy Studies Institute. London NW1 3SR

Pipe down

MARTIN Kettle (in cold Blood, November 23). voiced much of the unease that I have felt in observing Diane Blood's battle to be allowed to conceive a child with her dead husband's sperm. Having also lost partner some years ago, I have every sympathy with her, but it seems to me that what she is proposing is misguided, not only legally, but also socially and emotionally. Her case is based on the premise that we should sanc-tify motherhood, and that this should override her husband's legal rights. Such "sanctification" is question-able, but if we must do it, surely we should sanctify par-enthood on equal terms.

The arguments put forward also seem to accept as reasonable the virtual exclusion of men from the process of child rearing. This seems to me to send all the wrong messages to both men and women about who is responsible for taking care of children.

Diane Blood must now tinue her legal and emotional battle. If she were a friend of mine, I would want to encourage her, very gently, to let go of this.

(Dr) Veronica Strang Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Oxford University, Oxford OX2 6PN.

T SEEMS to me that we are PIPED music has never idebating Mrs Blood's case not because she has put the been shown to work, ie to make people feel happier or ber 25). In the Gatwick Air-port Survey (of 68,077 people in April 1994), more people disliked than liked the muzak. In a survey of 1,500 blood ceedings of the British Psychological Association, January 1995), it was found that

"right" of women to repro-duce, the Blood case seems to me to show how much more

matter into the public arena, but because we can debate it. It is, at last, an area of procreation where we can have a say. We cannot, we admit ruefully, prevent single mothers having children, cannot pre-vent the feckless or illiterate or (admit it) poor having chil-dren, but this woman we can Far from reflecting the

control many members of our society would like to have in this area, if only they could Frankly, given that Mrs Blood could go out and have eight children by eight fathers — with or without their knowledge or consent to anything other than sex — I do not see any reason why she shouldn't have eight children by her late husband, if that happens to be what she wants. I certainly don't think she should be stopped just be-cause the idea makes Martin Kettle squirm. DR Moorhouse 186 Grange Road, Gillinghar

IM SUREHELL UNDERSTAND ...

(in praise of the cleavage of Essex, November 20). The Gov-ernment has decided to split Resex. On April 1, 1998, Thur-rock will become a unitary au-thority and be able to take charge of its future, free from the dictates of the leafy shires of Chelmsford, Coggeshall. Colchester etc. We will rebuild our economy

and our image which has been so tainted by decisions of the rest of Ess ex to force us to be come the dumping ground for the dustbins of London. (Cilr) John Kent. Deputy Leader,

Thurrock Council. Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Thurrock, Essex RM17 SSL.

DLANS for new housing on Althorp Estate land at Dall-ington Heath have been part and parcel of Northampton's future development for the past 20 years (Naturalists fight earl's plans for new town, No-vember 25). The land is desig-nated for housing in the borough local plan. A "park and ride" site and an integrated and no rise and an integrated public-transport system form part of the proposals, which have been the subject of detalled discussion with the planning authorities. Our planning application is being considered by the county and boxough councils. We believe it goes a long way to meeting the challong way to meeting the challenge of sustainability. E M Crookes.

Resident agent, The Althorp Estate. Northampton NN7 4HQ. WHY don't your over-paid and under-worked political correspondents read the

material they purport to quote from (Blair's awkward squad, November 25)? I never com-pared Tony Blair's leadership, style, hairstyle, underpants or anything about him with Kim Il Sung, Lee Kwan Yew or even Sun Yat Sen. I merely quoted one party member as comparing our policy pro-cesses with those of Kim II Sung. I knew Kim II Sung. Kim Il Sung was a friend of mine. Tony sin't no Kim Il ese purge your clippings file of this monstrous al-legation. It could hold back my remorseless rise to the front-bench position I deserve and give an appalling example of aloppy journalism to the Sun. Austin Mitchell MP.

London SWIA GAA



It's not good to talk if you don't act

As A BT employee, I was | explain the run-around which amazed to read (BT won | many customers get when over by argument for ethical audit, November 25) that BT is arrogant enough to conis arrogant enough to consider undergoing an ethical audit. This "ethical" company, having shed more than 100,000 jobs over the past five years, now employs sub-contracted labour at the cheapest rates to do many internal jobs (doorloopens centen). (doorkeepers, canteen staff, cleaners) and itself employs agency staff on insecure con-tracts (at rates of pay just less

many customers get when they ring 151, the Fault Repair Service.
There are in-house committees on everything, from dis-ability to discrimination, but

how many women, ethnic minorities, or disabled people are represented on the BT board, or throughout the "bet-ter" jobs in the company? Any number of BT staff could have written this letter. However, as BT likes to threaten to sack staff who criticise the than the proposed minimum company in public, please en-wage) to deal with most cus-sure that I am credited as: tomer queries. This helps to Name and address supplied.

A guilty verdict for the CPS

AVID Rose reduces the Whatever the Home Secretary may claim, most victims are ecution Service to lack of fund-ing (When justice takes a walk, November 19). Two women who brought a successful private prosecution for rape, and the English Collective of Prostitutes and ourselves who helped them, withdrew from Mr Rose's TV programme because this view avoids address ing bias in the CPS.

Many people complain that the CPS often prioritises crimes against property over crimes of violence, depending on who is the victim and who the perpetrator. We have docu-mented 15 cases where the CPS refused to prosecute. As in the private prosecution, each vic-tim had a lower social status than her attacker.

Echoing the Home Secre-tary, the Director of Public cutions wants to blame CPS failings on defendants having too many rights. But we have seen rape cases fail because of prosecutors' delay, careless presentation of evidence and even hostility to their own witnesses. Bias is A L Crocker.

not unique to the CPS: it runs is High Street, throughout the legal system. Shoreham, Kent.

not its central concern. Anne Neale. Women Against Rape Nina Lopez-Jones. Legal Action for Women PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU.

HEN someone close to me was wrongly accused of a crime, the CPS doggedly pursued the case in the face of evidence that he could not possibly have committed it. It took two years to deal with a minor credit card fraud. Endless court appearances were adjourned because the CPS was not ready. lawyer who knew nothing about the case.

It took them a year to obtain a bank statement for the stolen credit card. It showed that the card had been used in Britain while my friend was in Australia. His trial lasted eight days, at the end of which the jury took less than half an hour to find him not guilty. Small wonder the CPS is short of

pplied; please include a full stal address. We may edit etters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not

A Country Diary

We do not publish letters where

only an e-mail address is

playing piped music to donors at clinics made them more

anxious, not less.
Final proof of the irrelevance of piped music to commercial success: thriving

retailers in Britain such as

Marks & Spencer, Tesco

John Lewis and Safeway are

muzak-free, unlike the strug gling House of Fraser.

Nigel Rodgers.

West Amesbury

The Cottage, Moorhatches,

CHILTERNS: Three hard, | their moves under the water? successive night frosts had rinsed the air clear of mist, and the canal lay as still and sharp as a pane of glass. There were berons hunched along the bank, staring at their own immobile reflections. Another was poised elegantly on the stern of a moored punt. A kingfisher streaked out of a hawthorn bush, and then - I think I had strayed into the centre of its fishing territory — flew back past me. It was flying in a way I had never seen before, wings shivering for a few feet, then gliding, much as dippers do. It was close enough to the surface of the water for bird and reflection to form one single bizarre creature, like a giant harlequin dragonfly. I wondered how it (and the herons, too) coped with the dazzle and polish of this flat-calm surface. Could they see dazzle and polish of this flat-calm surface. Could they see fish beyond their own mirror-images? Did they have mo-mentary hallucinations of competing birds minicking competing birds mimicking

Then, out of the corner of my eye. I saw a flock of starlings dropping out of the sky. They free-fell maybe 50 feet in perfect formation, their wings glittering as the trailing edges refracted the low sun. It was like a synchronised swoon. I have seen displays like this two or three times before, and know that it is one of the manoeuvres they use to confuse predators. And sure enough, a second later a spar-rowhawk soared over my head towards the outlying birds, now flying straight at a very low level. I would love to see a very slow motion film of that theatrical dive. Was it truly simultaneous, with every bird seeing and reacting at once to the threat? Or did it ripple through the flock like a breeze over the water?

RICHARD MABEY

Diary

Matthew Norman

HOSE who claim to detect traces of self-im-portance in my friend Andrew Lloyd-Webber will feel right charlies today, as they learn of another display of humility. At the first night of Jesus Christ Superstar, the Lyceum theatre in London's glittering West End heaved with punters preparing to paddle in the ocean of originality that is Andrew's unique talent, but shortly before curtain-up an incident took place. Oc-cupants of the Gents were surprised by the arrival of front-of-house staff ordering immediate evacua-tion. Assuming a bomb scare, they obediently filed out, but a bomb scare it was not. Once the last urinal was vacated, a cordon sanitaire formed around the entrance . . . and in strode Sir Andrew, to void his bladder in imperial solitude. "Who knows what's behind it?" says one theatrical expert. "It's either the size of his ego or the size of his penis, but no one can be certain

YSTERY surrounds the showbiz career of lan Greer, who is thought to be talking to Unique Productions, a film company owned by Noel Edmonds, about rights to a book he is writing. Unique's refusal to deny the rumour fuels speculation about a project likely to be filmed in Mr Edmonds's house in Crinkly Bottom. As for the central part of Neil Hamilton, this seems certain to be offered to Mr Blobby, who has long been preparing method-style for the role by apeing the MP's penchant for facetious bow ties.

WAS pleased to note the Independent's restraint in reporting the Budget leak, which it buried on page two: after all, acci-dents happen with even the most sensitive financial information. The Independent tiself, for example, has sent a statement of its overspent features budget for the last financial year to Simon Kelner, who left the paper in July. When the document reached his old office in the internal mail, a quickthinking member of staff simply ran a pen through the existing address and sent it on to him at his new job, on a rival paper.

R KELNER's new job is, in fact, run-ning the Mail on Sunday's estimable Night & Day magazine, which car-ried an enchanting grouppicture of leading newspaper editors. Most managed to make it to Fleet ing the Daily Record's Terry Quinn who came from Glas gow - so where was Jonathan Holborow, editor of the Mail on Sunday itself? The former shepherd's official excuse was a prior engage-ment, but the truth concerns his increasingly fractious relationship with coeditor Oswald, the white cotton handkerchief with which he converses at times of stress. "It was another skirmish in this endless, insane power-struggle of theirs," says one executive. "Since the invitation was addressed to 'the editor'. Neither would back down, so they both ended up missing out. Serves them right."

HE T&G's parliamen tary branch has held an open meeting for Westminster secretarial staff, advising them on pay and office procedure following the declaration of a general election — the moment MPs cease to be MPs. Regular attenders of such neetings were surprised that about 100 secretaries to Tory MPs were there. This confusion evaporate towards the end of the meeting when one after the other — all previous strangers to union events — raised queries about the same subject . . . entitlement to redundancy pay after the

HE British police make further progress in the search for equal opportunities, and Police magazine highlights the efforts of West Mercia's Tony Breeze in promoting ecceptance of transexuals. In addressing the Crime and Drugs Surveillance Unit about a planned reorganisa-tion, Inspector Breeze was reassuring. "There will be no change of personnel," he explained, "but by next April, 40 per cent of you will



Tony Blair's very strange love affair

Commentary Catherine Bennett

FTER the disillusion-

ment that was Tony Blair's Desert Island Discs music selection, much depended on his choice of book. Whatever it was, it surely could not be more weedily sentimental than Memories of the Alhambra nor more brayingly dim bra, nor more brayingly dim than Ezio's Cancel Today. But when Blair announced that he could think of nothing finer for his never-ending beach-read than Sir Walter Scott's Ivanhoe, it was hard, given Scott's sadly shrivelled readership, to decide exactly what Blair's choice was meant to tell us. Such confusion was not, presumably, what was intended. When politicians choose a book for De-sert Island Discs they do not do so to appear enigmatic, or out of a desire to share something rare and precious with their audience, but, of course, to promote their political image, their party, or — in rather fewer cases — their claim to intellectual respectability. To this end, Norman

Peoples; Neil Kinnock picked Tawoey's Essays on Equality; Alan Clark wanted Bertrand Russell's History of Western Philosophy; and Major, 'Trolope's The Small House at Allington. You immediately got the message that these individuals were respectively Tory, Labour, brainy, and a wistful liar who had been put up to it by his advisers. up to it by his advisers.
So when Blair picked Ivan-hoe, it seemed likely that he,

too, was simply grabbing a chance to posture. Bas Man-delson chosen well? No, thinks John Sutherland, Prothinks John Sutherland, Pro-fessor of English Literature at University College, London and the author of an ar-claimed critical biography of Scott. "It is a strange choice if one tries to find a congruence between the novel and Blair's own political thinking," he says — or, as Scott might put it, vociferates. "I think Blair has just plucked this novel out without realising that it's out without realising that it's one of the key texts of British Toryism, by an arch Tory." Sir Walter Scott's politics Sir Walter Scott's politics, Sutherland points out, were so extremely authoritarian, that not long before Ivanhoe was published, in 1819, "he actually seriously suggested that the gentlemen of England should arm themselves to put down and destroy radicals by force". Scott was not much more annealing in his hasi-

more appealing in his busi-ness dealings, in which he

Tebhit chose Chnrchill's History of the English Speaking unscrupulousness in enrich-Peoples; Neil Kinnock picked ing himself, that one critic as compared him with Robert Maxwell what could Blair be think-ing of? It could be that, goaded on by Major's inter-vention in the destiny of the

Stone of Scone, and wounded by Scots critics of his referendum, he hoped to remind listeners of his own impeccable origins, to present himself as the Laird of Islington. Sir Waiter, after all, is wholly res-ponsible for the phonily spor-raned and kilted Scots baronial myth that so appealed to the Victorian middle classes. On the other hand, Scott, as a fervent Tory Unionist and a sycophantic subject, would hardly have embraced devolution. Besides, if Blair wanted to summon up the whiff of shorthread, he would surely have done better to choose one of the Waverley books, instead of Scott's first English historical novel.

But Professor Sutherland

thinks it's more simple than that "Blair's a terrific oppor-tunist," he says. "Because he knows that the BBC is going to do a televisation of it. It's his spin doctors: he asks what's coming down the pike, what's going to be televised in a few weeks, and they tell him Ivanhoe." It's a persuasive if rather unattractive theory. In the new year, the BBC will present a six-part, £6 million dramatisation of the novel,

starring any number of men in hose and women in bod-ices. This honour is sufficient for some to speak of a Scott for some to speak of a Scott revival, an event which has been excitedly awaited by enthusiasis for most of this century. But, given Scott's prolixity, his archaic style and crude characterisation, it seems unlikely. The actors and actresses in the HBC production have already confided that they simply couldn't get on with lyanhoe. "It really is hard going," complained the production's Litn really is hard gooding, com-plained the production's Lit-tle John. "Two only got as far as page two." This is a pity, for in my copy, Little John does not speece that! does not appear until page 174: 'Let us drink, sing, and

be merry. Apparently this, for Blair, is dialogue which could never stale. Even after one evening of racing, then skipping through Ivanhoe, it is going be difficult ever to take him seriously again. Here is a man of 43, with no vindicat-

'It's his spin doctors: he asks what's going to be televised in a few weeks, and they tell him Ivanhoe'

ing, scholarly interest in the history of the novel, who has expressed a desire to read, over and over, the quaint ejaculations: "Well said, stout yeoman"; "by my halidome"; "thou stubborn varlet"; and

"thou stubborn variet"; and innumerable repetitions of "tush!" and "marry!". Set in the Middle Ages, during the reign of Richard I, the novel describes the adventures of a knight, Ivanhoe, who, returning from the crusades, becomes engaged in the struggle between Prince John

who have always doubted Blair's commitment to reform of the House of Lords, for example, may wonder at his ad-miration for a novel which is wholly infatuated with feudalism, rank and titles. The shadow cabinet, in particular, may wish to turn to page 269, on which a faithful vassel requests the privilege (granted) of dying for his master.

Again, can Blair genuinely be the sensitive type we imag-ined, yet also stomach the vigorous strand of racial superi-ority expressed through the hideous venality of Isaac the

about information superhigh-ways for a New Britain if he actually wants nothing more than to escape into an imagi-nary age of militaristic chivalry, in which men joust and pillage, and women ask only to be rescued from ravish-ment, or, on a good day, ap-

pointed the "fair Sovereign of Love and of Beauty"?

As Blair introduced his favourite as "one of the great love stories of British literature". ture", it's quite possible he hasn't read a word of it. Love, in Ivanhoe, comes a long way after tournaments, feasting, after tournaments, feasting, even after the glamorous touches of medieval outfitting. In fact, it might be easier to forgive an inept bit of spin-doctoring, than to believe that Tony Blair, saviour of the nation, has a headful of tartan, tushes, and Rebecca's un-

and Richard the Lionheart, and between Normans (baddies) and Saxons (goodies), while at the same time running into Robin Hood (merrie) and pursuing his romantic interest in the Lady Scandal that haunted the Lionheart, and between Normans (baddies) and Saxons (goodies), while at the same time running into Robin Hooding in the Lady Scandal that No matter how unappealing the task, every floating voter should read Ivanhoe, which is not just more revealing, but, at £1, far cheaper than the New Labour manifesto. Those



David McKie

granted nowadays that pol-iticians with a hinterland are better than those without one. It saves them from being obsessive. That, I suppose, is one reason why such extrava-gant interest is taken when they appear on Desert Island Discs. It admits us — assuming they're being honest — to their hinterlands.

I had always thought of the nation's first and most durable prime minister, Robert Walpole, as the kind of coarse, convivial country squire for whom a binterland was prin-cipally a hunterland. Walpole was always reputed to open letters from his huntsman before any others, and held annual bunting conferences at his opulent seat in Norfolk. It seems odd to think of him as the father of the celebrated aesthete, wit and creator of his own Gothic fantasy castle at Strawberry Hill, Horace Walpole. But then, some believed that he wasn't, attribu-ting Sir Robert's last-born son to the rather more cerebral Carr. Lord Hervey. But it seems that Sir Robert

has been traduced. On the evidence of an exhibition of Walpole's paintings now on at the Castle Museum, Norwich, the hinterland of Sir Robert also included a sharp and dis-criminating eye for a picture — and a pocket to match. There's a Poussin here — The Holy Family with Saints John and Elizabeth — for which Walpole, like some modern tycoon in the market for a Brazilian mid-fielder, bid £400 — a world record, be claimed, for this artist, though he got it in the end for a mere £320. There's a wonderfully fierce portrait, attributed to Velasquez, of Pope innocent X reputed to be the ugliest man in Christendom. There's a Gainsborough of Mr and Mrs Browne of Tunstall, sitting comfortably with their daughter at a little distance from a house clearly far less grand than their own. There are also the family portraits, some of Sir Robert himself, expanding from chubby youth to corpulent, even gross, old disastrous fire at Houghton 10

Good though it is, the show can only hint at the grandeur of Sir Robert's collection. To do justice to that, you'd have had to stage it at Houghton Hall, which he built himself, demolishing an older house and shifting a village to do so, as a kind of celebration of his success. The costs of this

have cost him £100,000, though £30,000 was probably nearer the mark. To sustain this splendid establishment. as well as Downing Street and a place in Chelsea, suggested an income unlikely to have been accumulated by honest effort alone. And, clearly, it wasn't: Sir Robert is remem-bered today as probably our

most corrupt prime minister. And even then, he couldn't afford it. When Walpole died in 1745 his family faced a mountain of debt. "I know not what to call it." said Horace of Houghton Hall. "A monument of grandeur, or of ruin." The family cought to custain it as family sought to sustain it, as Sir Robert had created it, but finally succumbed. Only by selling the pictures could

Houghton be saved.

Its saviour was Catherine the Great, who, family portraits apart, bought the collection for rather less than \$40,000. There was public outrage against such treasure being lost to the Russians. In the sort of letter that Virginia Bottomley knows all too well. James Christie, founder of the famous sales-house, wheedled: "If the minister had a mind to immortalise himself, I could put him in the way to do it effectually by causing this col-lection to be purchased at the expense of the Publick and building a room at the British Museum for their reception. I would undertake that it would be the means of bringing all foreigners of Taste from different parts of the world to see them ... "John Wilkes argued in Parliament (some suspected Horace Walpole had put him up to it) that Parlia-ment should purchase the pic-tures as the basis of a kind of National Gallery.

HAT no one in author ity — not even the king, who was also appealed to — intervened to save the collection was seen as a sign of national decadence, "One of the most striking instances that can be produced, claimed a letter to the Euro-pean magazine, "of the de-cline of the Empire of Great Britain, and the advancement of our powerful ally in the North, the riches of a nation have generally been esti-mated according as it abounds in works of art, and so careful of these treasures have some states been, that, knowing their value and im-portance, they have prohib-ited the sending of them out of their dominions. As it happened, the sale of

years later destroyed Wal-pole's gallery and would probably have taken most of his pictures with it. As it was they survived in Russia to be lent to Norwich now. The ex-hibition comes to Kenwood House, Hampstead, on January 23. It may not tempt you to pardon the methods by which Walpole made his forenterprise were a subject of tune, but you can't help adscandal. The picture collection alone was rumoured to dispose of it.



One last time: trust me

It wasn't an exciting Budget, argues Hugo Young, but it wasn't meant to be: it was a political statement from a formidable political Chancellor who knows how to promise jam tomorrow

scended from the Treasury to dispense his unforeseeable sdom to the multitude was in 1981, when Geoffrey Howe tounded the Cabinet and shocked the country with a brutalist package that nobody had predicted. Since then, every hig direction has been indicated in advance, it's the more and in advance. It is the way markets are soothed and politicians hosed down. So there was something pathetically anachronistic about the editor of the Daily Mirror excusing himself from publishing the big leak on grounds that the markets would have thrown into tur-moll. By yesterday, leaks were almost otiose. The vast prognosticating apparatus, fed from the Treasury months ahead of time, is precisely designed to ensure there shall

be no surprises.
And there were none. The And there were none. The Budget judgment may have been tighter than some pundits expected in election year. Some of the micro-directions, such as the taxing of profit-related pay and the highly political adjustments of the Uniform Business Rate, were at the Chancellor's discretion. But as between offending the markets and disappointing markets and disappointing his political colleagues, Kenneth Clarke did as he had

HERE is no such thing as a major cians to go hang.

Budget secret. The last time an Olympian Chancellor deviate was a wholly political event. Next-to-neutral economically, it will resound through the politics of the next six months. Some Tory back-benchers will not think so. Although there was some waving of order-papers at the end, many of them will be scabrous in their feelings that this terrible Euro-nut of a Chancellor has lost the last opportunity to do the only thing which, in their imagin-ings, might win them the elec-tion: cut the standard rate by at least 2p, and challenge Labour to say they would reverse it. Such simplicities die very hard, even among politicians whose party has long since forfeited most of its credibility as a prophet of instant tax gratification. There was no chance of either Mr Clarke or Mr Major

putting that to the test again.
Contrary to rumour, they've
never been significantly agart
in their analysis of either the economics or the politics of their position. They know their only chance of reversing the tide and bringing Tory deserters back to their persuasion is by the solidity of their record and the caution of their promise. They want to show their utter respect-ability, their durable pru-dence, and thereby daugle ever more seductively before

freedom of their economic debate. The Government has some massive political problems scratching at its heart. It has Europe, it has sleaze, it has fatigue, it has social breakdown, it has the record of all the things on which it has failed to satisfy the nation despite 17 years of trying. But it has an economic record, considered in the present and diate future, which Labour cannot easily

dismantle.

Above all, it still has the capacity to act. For all its frailties, it bestrides the scene. Watching Mr Clarke yesterday, the open-minded voter must at least have been cover of a Chappellor who aware of a Chancellor who could describe the world he'd helped create in the past three years, as well as what he would be doing in the emphasise how far from gov-

Tory tax rises are the mantra we will never cease to hear. But if you compare the Budget speech with Labour's own most recent policy statement on spending and tax, the con-trast cuts to the heart of politics. For Labour's state was entirely — proudly, tri-umphally, blazingly — negative. Every tiny spending pledge that could be levelled to its name, we learned last week, drenched in Mr Mandelson's hyperbole of outrage, was a lie.

That's how Labour answered the latest version of the Tories' terror campaign, stoking public alarm about what the party might insist on. The campaign is based, of course, on a lot of tendent

The Government has some massive political problems scratching at its heart

future. Money for education? He could put a figure on it. Guarantees for the NHS? Listen to our precise and solemn commitment. Worried about public services in general? Consider, if you will, the real-terms increases we have been able to apply over any timespan you care to name. Want to know about income tax? Here is our target, 20p in the nound: here is our progress all, it distribute it in due Here is our target, 20p in the pound: here is our progress towards it, another lp off. And here are the 25 per cent of people who already pay only at the lowest rate. After 1992, there's no over-

sald, to distribute it in due course. He could claim to be responsible by not offering tax cuts now, while also being able to say, with a precision the Opposition dare not

tailed in political change. Yes-terday was the beginning of that campaign, and it showed what a formidable gulf lies between the parties in the the certain reliability of the Clarke-Major promises. This ance the books, cut welfare fraud, rake in the fruits of tax evasion (£6.7 billion, he hugely instanced), lower the evasion (£6.7 billion, he hugely instanced), lower the public percentage of GDP, maintain the trend of income

> This happy project could yet begin to fall apart. If inflation starts edging up, steady Eddie will be weighing in with the demand for another rate rise. That would be un comfortable, as the final weeks ebb away. There's no denying, either, that the vot ers who rescued the Tories from near-oblivion in 1995 feel betrayed by what has happened to tax since then. I stick to my opinion that the majority of the electorate has given up on the Government, for a variety of reasons that annot be undone. But Mr Major and Mr

Clarke make their pitch absolutely clear. When they joined hands at the party confer-ence, they weren't just prop-ping each other up against the storm. They think they've the storm. They think they we put together an economic record that ought to lift the curse of the 17 years, and convert it into a precious legacy, now at last perfected, with which no one else should be trusted.

The Budget wasn't exciting. It wasn't meant to be Kyrite.

It wasn't meant to be. Excitement would have been a form of betrayal. It was meant to say that economics is a tricky business and we know how to business and we know how to do it. That's a formidable message, if you forget every-thing else, and it came from a formidable political Chancel-lor. Lady Thatcher, who the other day commended the Tory wirtue of "rugged grandeur" the other day, should make him her hero. He makes

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Bert Achong

Bert Achong . . . a flair for demystifying difficult concepts in 1953, he trained as a clini-

Finding the foamy virus

nised expert on the study of viruses by electron micros-copy. He was part of the team which discovered the first human tumour virus in 1964, and later he found another new virus in human cancer

Bert Achong left Trinidad with the prestigious Jer-ningham gold medal and the colonial scholarship in 1947. to study medicine at University College, Dublin. Qualifying

ERT Achong, who cal pathologist at London's he gave papers at international meetings and he continuour aged 67, was an internationally recognised internationally recognised internationally recognised internationally recognised internation in the study of Middlesex Hospital Medical rus by electron internations and he continuous seem straightforward, on the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled atture and opera. He travelled internation in the subject exciting. He was responsible for many scientists choosing careers in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled internation in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled internation in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled internation in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled internation in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled internation in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled internation in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and opera. He travelled in the city's art, theatre, literature and operature and operatu Middlesex Hospital Medical School to study viruses associated with cancer. In 1964 the team discovered the first human tumour virus, later known as the Epstein-

Barr virus.
Achong gained his MD in 1965, and in 1968 moved with Epstein's team to Bristol Uni-Epstein's team to Bristol University as pathology department senior lecturer, remaining there until his 1985 BSc course, and generations but he also loved London, retirement. A renowned experiment of students benefited from his particularly his home base in flair for making difficult con-

rus by electron microscopic examination of human cancer cells. This "foamy virus" The

research.

Achong never returned to work in Trinidad but he loved voproved to be a member of the island and regularly visited the first example of a retrovirus naturally infecting man.

Achong was more than a superh electron microscopic.

He was a foundation fellow of the pathology faculty of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, a fellow of Britain's Royal College of Pathology, and was awarded a DSc by the National University of Ire-

It was typical of Achong to make light of his illness. He told me that he first realised that something was amiss when he could no longer do the Times crossword at the

ing self, uncomplaining to the

Achong's place in the history of virology is assured, but his friends will also remember the most intelligent, cultured and gentlemanly of men.

Dorothy Crawford

Borough (obtinary of Oliver Anderson, November 16) and read the book in a state of hilarious disbeltef. I wrote at

once to the Guardian's David McKie, who wrote back that:

"It's the sort of thing Richard Boston does very well."

And so it was that he met Oliver Anderson and did his excellent full-page story; that Fourth Estate republished the book; and that Oliver Ander-

son, deservedly had his Guardian obituary. In 1989 Fourth Estate sent me a com-

plimentary copy of Rotten Borough, and wrote: "... here

ton we would not be. You are only the second person in the

other being the Prime Minis-

ter, whose office rang for one last week. Of course, we

Vera von der Heydt

The last of the great Jungians

she lent me an impor-tant new article, inveighed against some profes-sional folly, went straight and humorously to the knot of some tangle of my own and gave me tea besides. Wouldn't she somehow always be there in that little room in the convent where she spent her last years, bringing her under-standings to the ways of our worlds? Now, with her death at the age of 96, the interna-tional Jungian community has lost one of its last links with Jung himself and analytical psychology in this country one of its deepest and most distinguished inter-

Born in Berlin, the second daughter of Paul von Schurabach, head of the merchant bank S Bleichröder, and Eleanor Schröder, her beginnings were not just grand but Jew-ish (through her father) and Protestant, German and Irish as well. The healing of the split between her Jewish and Nordic-Celtic heritages be-came a central theme for her. in 1937 she was to add her own conversion to Roman Camat, one of the Kaiser's bankThrough her subsequent

journeyings, both inner and outer, she worked with the analyst John Layard, with Gerhard Adler, co-editor of Jung's Collected Works and, between the two with Inner between the two with Jung himself for three years. It was he, she said, who gave her the key to that door she had slammed shut on her own Germanness. It was from him that she learned, as she later wrote, that "healing is a pro-cess that is a constant trans-

Association of Jungian Analysts, of the Independent Group of Analytical Psychological experience at the Davidson Clinic.

*HE last time I visited | when her family began to feel | there for anyone who wants to Vera von der Heydt | the chill of the coming | deepen an understanding of the relationship between depth psychology and religion.

To these she brought her passionate loyalty to Jung's teachings — and as passionate a reaction to those she felt had betrayed them. She could be more than a touch imperious, bluntly direct and stern in her pursuit of what she felt was important. She was also disarmingly humble, mischievously charming, and as radi-ant as a child delighting in life's small wonders. She had cess that is a constant trans-formation when one is suffi-ciently awake to remember all the different parts of one's wel, and in doing so rejoiced eing".

In 1954, Vera von der Heydt donor. She was as engaged became a professional member of the Society of Analytical Psychology in London, where she lived and worked for more than 30 years. She was a founder member of the visitors; for her, it was the acceptance of lynging Analytical Part of the pour former towards the end of her life as the was a founder member of the visitors; for her, it was the pour former and the pour former towards the end of her life as the was a founder member of the visitors; for her, it was the

gists, and, most recently, of Edinburgh with Dr Winifrid the Guild of Analytical Rushforth at the start of her Psychology and Spirituality. But there was nothing narrowly professional in her conthen, she was in London. Her her death, was president of early marriage to Baron Eduard von der Heydt, diplo-Club, there for anyone who narily intuitive; I learned to wants to explore Jung's curb my impatience at her psychology; she chaired and seemingly irrelevant tales.



Vera von der Heydt . . . 'It seems as if the search is more important than the goal'

they illuminated that central issue which I had only now begun to articulate. And in all this again, what mattered most was not the ego psychology which has

ern art, had ended after nine was an honorary fellow of the launched as soon as I entered for the soul's journey, the only thing that matters is to 11, 1885; years and she had left Berlin Guild of Pastoral Psychology, the room, when it finally movement towards the indi- go on looking until we catch a 1998

dawned just how precisely | vidual centre that Jung called | glimpse of where the treasure the Self, which Vera von der is. Whether we reach it or not Heydt characterised as "the is uncertain; it seems as if the vessel into which God's grace search is more important might pour". "We all have a centre of gravity within us," she wrote in *Prospects for the* come to dominate the practice of psychotherapy. It was the discover it is nobody's condiscernment of and respect cern but our own, and the

than the goal."

Baroness Vera von der Heydt,

looked like Feydeau. Derek

Farr played an adulterer whose family descends on his love nest, including Margaret

Lockwood as a knowing wife

Margaretta D'Arcy & John Arden toom. There I found Rotten den write. We first met George Byati (November 20) in London in the 1970s at Theatre read the book in a state of Writers' Union meetings. He insisted that the TWU, as a insisted that the TWU, as a brand-new body, should be as much a creative experiment as any of the new plays of its members. To prevent a crowd of egocentric individualists from solidifying into a closed bureaucracy with a long tail of docile stragglers who left all the decision-making to others, George characteristically invoked the Church of Scotland General Assembly's ancient democracy to ensure that our democracy to ensure that our "standing" committees be-came "rolling" panels, renew-ing themselves from the mem-bership at regular intervals so that everyone had a go at executive office in a very short space of time. We learned more about demo-cratic activity in a few months than we could ever have found out from a lifetime's involvement with the structure of a

more orthodox union.

George was a constant ally and pillar of support. His participation in the largely-improvised 1977 show, A Pinprick of History (by M D'Arcy), at the Ambience Theatre was inventive, exhilarating and unremittingly generous; without if the production might out it the production might never have got off the ground. He loved to try something new; he loved to see colleagues trying something new, he would praise and assist without stint and criticise with wisdom and warm-hearted irony. His death is a great loss to the innermost life of the

Martyn Berry writer: I spent my brief sabbatical from teaching at Jesus College, remark led me to the university library's locked-away-books

4----

John Alderton, actor, 56:

Prof John Ashworth, for

mer director, London School of Economics, 58, Rodney

Bewes, actor, 59; Randy

Brecker, jazz musician, 51; Lord Bridges, former diplo-

vyn Davies, economist, member of the Chancelior's panel, 46; Robert Dougall,

former newscaster, 83; James Evans, former chair-man, International Thomson

organisation, 64; Lord Howard de Walden, racehorse owner and breeder, 84; Dr Kim Howells, Labour MP, 50; Rosaline Kelly, publishing consultant, 74; Verity Lambert, television and film

producer, 61; The Marquess of Lansdowne, former Con-

signer, 53; Alan Simpson, scriptwriter, 67; Ernie Wise,

Birthdays

Death Notices

mat, 69; Colette Brown, chief executive, Personal In-vestment Authority, 50; Ga-

Jack Popplewell

Words, music and modesty

N THE 1940s, every songs, 16 stage plays — eight butcher's boy used to in the West End — eight telewhistle the songs of Jack wision dramas, and four feared Popplewell, who has died ture films from Popplewell turned to the theatre. With Blind Alley the police were allowed to do aged 87: If I Should Fall in He was a man singularly (1953) in which robbers were much sleuthing, since Love Again, My Girl's an Irish Girl, Really and Truly, and every singer from Bing Crosby to Gigli, Gracie Fields to Vera Lynn, Anne Shelton to Max Bygraves would re-

And in the 1950s and 1960s. playgoers with a taste for the lighter stuff, forensic or romantic, like Dead on Nine, Dear Delinquent or Busybody, relished the Popplewellian way of twisting a plot with irony and drawing character. Few playwrights could count so readily on stars like Andrew Cruickshank for Scotland Yard men, Naunton Wayne as a wry commentator or Margaret Lockwood as a Mayfair Cinderella.

There were 70 published

a rose-grower, or student of French literature or rugby league — his father had been president of the league and in the 1930s led its first British team to Australia. Popplewell was more the conventional, quiet, dry humoured York-shireman and family man than songwriter and play-wright. Celebrity? It Inter-

Born in Leeds, Jack Popplewell knew from boy-hood that he would be a songwriter. Tunes came into his head uninvited but it took a head uninvited but it took a friend, without permission, to enter one of his songs in a competition. It won.

Thirteen years passed be called the police.

Irene Handl did, though, in Busybody (1964) when she arrived with mop, bucket and there was that stylish comeditions. It won.

Thirteen years passed be cockney accent to "do" an later in And Suddenly it's

reluctant to discuss his talent; driven to confess by a blind you might have taken him for man's false witness, he the technique, and in 1958 it became the film Tread Softly. Stranger with Diana Dors and George Baker.

By then he was established in the West End, firstly with a 1955 thriller Dead On Nine and secondly with the 1957 light comedy Dear Delin-quent, in which the wide-eyed Anna Massey enchanted everyone as an adolescent jewel thief — including David Tomlinson as her Mayfair victim. Naturally no one

the police were allowed to do much sleuthing, since Handl's Mrs Mop was always well shead of them with clues. lines and laughs. But when she reappeared in a variation on the theme in Dead Easy (1973) Popplewell came abruptly unstuck.

His plays did not "scape whipping" from critics but Popplewell was lucky with his actors and anyone with a taste for light comedy was usually rewarded. There was Alfred Marks as an agent whose mother, wife, mistress and secretary took various attitudes to his slobbery in A Day in the Life of ... (1958),



Jack Popplewell . . . more than 70 songs and 16 plays

Spring showing a dowdy Mar-garet Lockwood how to recover her looks and he on her guard against a be whiskered button-moulder, Frank Lawton. Popplewell even adapted a comedy so Parisian in its extra-marital zest that Every Other Evening (1964)

with lover in tow.
It was fun then for playgoers with a taste for Coward or Lonsdale — to whom Popplewell was once ambitiously compared. It added to the world's harmless plea-sures and facilitated Popplewell's delight in travel as he inspected overseas versions of his plays in Europe, South Africa, Israel, Austra-lia and the United States. Nor

He was working this August — on a musical ver-sion of one of his plays — when his wife, Betty Bryant, an artist whom he married 55 years ago, died. Within a month or two he himself was dead from cancer. They are survived by two daughters.

will amateur companies soon

Jack Popplewell, composer and playwright, born March 22, 1909; died November 16, 1996

or Lansdowne, former Con-servative minister, 84; Sir John Maddox, former edi-tor, Nature magazine, 71; Baroness (Ann) Mallalteu, QC, 51; Sir David Nickson, chairman, Clydesdale Bank, 67; Jil Sander, fashion de-signer, 52; Alex Stranger

Jackdaw



Shock tactics

1 HAVE, once again, been asked to conduct an in-depth interview with a famous person. And, once again, I have accepted the challenge. Be-low is a startling glimpse of Walter Matthau, the beloved star of Herb Gardner's new movie, I'm Not Rappaport. who has revealed his darkest secrets and innermost self in

order to boost grosses. Q: You and Jack Lemmon have often been compared to Tracy and Hepburn. In your mind, which of you is Tracy? A: I am Hepburn and Lemmon is Tracy. Although when I asked Jack he told me he

and he was Hepburn, Oddly enough, I'm told that Tracy had the same problem. Q: You play a crazy old Jew-ish socialist in I'm Not Rappa-

are a crazy old Jewish socialist. Did that have anything to do with your getting the part?
A: I'm not a socialist. I'm a egetarian. I voted Vegetarian because — and this is true — my niece ran for Vice-President on the Vegetarian ticket. However some of my best friends are crazy old Jew ish socialists. So, don't think I'm being critical. Q: You have said that you,

ccasionally, gamble. What was your longest long shot? A: A horse called Jimmy Cannon, named after the legendary sportswriter at the old

New York Post which paid 43 to I. And Herb Gardner. Q: In order to make this an in-depth interview it would be helpful if you told me something shocking about yourself that you've never told anyone else; otherwise I will have to make it up. It doesn't have to be true, it just has to be

A: Many years ago my mother told me that we were actually Irish. But since we all lived in an all-Jewish neighbourhood and looked Jewish and had Jewish accents, my father felt it would be just as easy to let people think what they wanted. At that time our last name was McMatthau, but as my father became more involved with the local synagogue (he eventually became a rabbi) he got nervous and

dropped it. Elaine May gets to the bottom of Walter Matthau in the New

Sad cesium

Q1. WHAT is the purpose of the newsgroup alt.cesium? Al. This newsgroup is intended expressly for the dis-cussion, praise, veneration, and adoration, the posting of songs, poetry, stories, and parables of and about that most sublime of elements, the almighty Cesium. Q2. What is Cesium? A2 Cesium is the most sub-

lime and electropositive of all

true elements. It was discov-

mineral water from Durkheim, Germany, by Robert Bunsen (of burner fame) and Gustaff Kirchhoff in 1860. Q3. What about Fr***ium? A3. We do not mention the name in alt.cesium, that false element being an upstart and pretender, vile, deprayed, un-natural, and having no stay-ing power. The longest lived isotope, Fr233 has a half life of only 22 minutes. Try to

base a global time standard

Q4 What is AMSWWBUW? A4. AMSWWBUW stands for the Association of Mad Scien-tists Who Want to Blow Up the World. It is a highly secre tive organization. Its activi-ties involve large numbers of monkeys and vast quantities of Cesium. Given the indis-putable fact that all persons in direct contact with the organisation have mysteri-ously vanished from the Net, the fewer questions asked, the better. Most of our infor-mation about this shadowy group derives from one Brendan Dunn, who was instru-mental in the formation of alt

cesium. He, alas, is among the vanished.

Q12. What should I do if I meet Cesium in dark alley? A12 Runillilli found at alt.cesium by N Tort.

Last notes

LIWILL always love you --Whitney Houston (A real tear-jerker.) 2. My Way — Frank Sinatra (Enough said.) 3. Unchained Melody — The Righteous Brothers (No worse than Please Release Me which I heard at a funeral recently.) 4. Wind beneath My Wings.

5. Memories — Barbra Streisand. 6. Imagine — John Lennon. 7. In The Mood — Glenn Miller. 8. Smoke Gets In Your Eyes

The Platters (At a The top songs currently requested at funerals according to the Revol Peter Atkinson in the Oxford Diocesan.

Dance Lord

DEAR Editors, In about 1996 my wife and i - were on holiday in Playa de las Americas, Tenerife, and one evening we decided to go dancing at the Hotel Park Troya along the front. After a few early dances we sat out to watch a tall Indian-looking gentleman and his partner take to the floor to the music

of a Latin American rumba. He was tall, greying, dark hair flashing alert eyes, and she was a most beautiful dark lady. Their movement was



beautiful to behold, and his smile of enjoyment entranc-ing. We watched, both of us intrigued by the aura of radiance exuded by the beauty of those dancers. Shortly afterwards, the couple seemed to disappear from the ballroom, but we could not forget their brilliant display of controlled rhythmic dancing. Only recently on my last visit did I recall this incident with the connection of the reported appearances of Maitreya, Could you tell me who this special

comedian, 71.

couple were? Mr W R King, Whitley Bay. Benjamin Creme's Master confirms that the male dancer was Maitreya and the woman" the master Jesus. From Share International published by Share International Foundations, an organisation in association with the Department of Public Information at the United Nations! Ben-Jamen Creme is the British chief editor of Share International, an artist and an esotericost for many years. His tele-pathic contact with a Master of Wisdom allows him to recieve up to date information on the Christ's emergence and to ex-

pand on the Ageless Wisdom Teachings (apparently). Bad line

HOW YOU use your mobile

phone could damage your health. Harley Street neurologist Dr Anthony Hopkins treated a man suffering pressure palsy, a severe muscle weakness and pain, in his arm and his shoulder. The man had been resting his mobile phone between his right ear and right shoulder for about two hours while he was driving his car. Dr Hopkins has termed the ailment "mobile phone user's shoulder droop", and thinks it's proba-bly caused by the hard edge of the phone compressing the nerves that supply the shoulder muscles. Zest on the painful times we

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk: fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR 3ER,

Emily Sheffield

The Guardian

Taxation

Windfall tax steals Labour thunder

Double whammy on travel and insurance

Spending

Deep cuts in housing benefit

Student loans sell-off frees funds for schools

Privatised companies complain of big cut in allowances for investment

'Windfall tax' put on utilities

HE Chancellor night of imposing "a windfall tax by any other name on the utilities. The claim came after he pushed through plans to im-pose a dramatic cut on the tax wances privatised companies can claim on investments in pipes, pylons and power stations.

Tax experts were quick to draw parallels with Labour's plans for a windfall tax on the utilities, but Paul Sampson, partner in Coopers and Ly-brand, said: "The point about his proposals is that they are cumulative and continuing, whereas Gordon Brown is planning a one-off hit on the utilities."

The move is expected to lead to a swift revaluation of utility shares on the stock market, and it led to warnings from big investors that it could force utilities to slow investment in Britain's crumbling public services infra-

At the same time it emerge that the Government has laid plans to push through an extra £720 million of spending on Magnox Electric, the company which controls those nuclear reactors remaining in the public sectors. the public sector, over the

next three years.

The provision is designed to smooth the way for the merger of Magnox with British Nuclear Fuels, but under lines the industry's continu-ing heavy toll on the taxpayer despite its privatisation.

The utilities were scram-bling to assess the full impact of the capital allowance move. which will increase the Ex-chequer's take from \$45 million a year to £325 million in 1996 and £675 million in 1999.

The Chancellor is propos-ing that assets with working lives of more than 26 years should qualify for capital allowances of 6 per cent compared with 25 per cent now.
The electricity and gas in dustries appear to be most vulnerable to the measure in the short term. Water com-panies may be able to use the shelter of advanced corpora

'It discriminates against capital intensive, long term investment'

tion tax (ACT) mountains in

the short term but will eventually also be hit. The big tele-com companies, such as BT and Energis, will suffer. Peter Knapton, managing director of securities for director of securities for Legal & General, predicted that companies, used to enjoy-ing tax advantages, would look to limit the damage to earnings and dividends. In-vestment programmes were likely to be further slowed. He estimated share prices could estimated share prices could fall by up to 4 per cent, while one leading City analyst calculated that the tax bill incurred by the average regional electricity company would increase by up to 25 million, lopping 10p off the

Utilities were last night pre-dicting a fight with the Inland Revenue over the classifica-

tion of assets.

John Stiggers, director of the Society of British Gas Industries, which represents 150 gas equipment suppliers, said investment was already suffering badly from the un certainty surrounding the Monopolies Commission in-quiry into British Gas's TransCo division. "A further disincentive to invest is extremely unwelcome and nocks on across industry." British Gas confirmed that the measures were likely to hit it and all other utilities,

but said it was still asssessing the impact.
The National Grid was more forthright. Calculating the cost at £10 million a year, chief executive David Jones said: "I can't understand the rationale for it unless it were

in antidote to windfall tax." Power generators were con-cerned that the measure would further skew the electricity market towards gas stations which traditionally operate over 15 years rather than the 30 to 40 year cycles seen in nuclear and coal plants. One senior source said: "This is a vicious blow to the utilities. It discriminates against capital-inten-sive, long-term investment in favour of the short-term gas

A spokesman for Hyder, the Walsh water and electricity npany, said: "Water con canies, more than other utiliies, will be protected by their ACT mountains ... but we will be turning into real tax payers; the question is when that will happen."

Interest rate and tax sums fail to add up

Notebook



Alex Brummer

HE central assertion of Kenneth Clarke's Budget strategy — that his tight fiscal stand removes the need for higher interest rates — does not stand up to anything but the most cursory scrutiny. What Mr Clarke solemnly presents as a prudent Budget, which avoids election givesways, squares the arithmetic only with a degree of chicanery.
While this may please the Chancellor's cabinet colleagues, it is unlikely to fool the financial markets. There are three main areas

forecasts, which are unjustifi-ably optimistic unless the in-flation target is thrown to the wind; the belief that public spending on infrastructure can be ratcheted down through the private finance initiative; and the Chancellor's reliance on "spend to save" to end the shortfall in taxation receipts. The proposition that these latter mea-sures could draw in some £6.7 billion of revenues over three years — far more than all his other new tax raising measures together — is faintly preposterous. However, in this last spin of the electoral dice Mr Clarke has had to rely upon mathematical tricks to deliver the tricks of any tricks to deliver the trio of enticing tax cuts, a lower public sector borrowing requirement and higher spending on education and health.

The main way in which Mr Clarke aims to increase tax revenue, so as to bring down the borrowing requirement, is by growing the economy at what must be considered an unsustainable rate. The Bud-get forecast predicts that growth in Britain will pick up from the current level of 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent next year. But rather than being based on what Britain needs export-led growth, this will be fuelled largely by consumers' expenditure, which is seen as climbing by 4.25 per cent — an unsustainable level if the economy is not to overheat. Mr Clarke and his advisers appear convinced that there will be some recovery in exports as the economies of our main markets in Europe pick up speed: maybe. But he appears to have conveniently forgotten one of the truths of

post-war British economic management — that industry has performed best when assisted by a competitive pound. The 10 per cent jump in the value of the pound since Mr Clarke delivered his 1995 Budget could scramble

our export performance. Certainly, there is reason to believe that the Bank of England will be none too pleased with the heady consumer spending projections for next year, if it is to have any prospect of keeping inflation within 2.5 per cent. It be-lieves that domestic demand holds the key to inflation: this will be impossible without further base rate increases.

The second difficulty with the Budget is public spending. The control total for public spending looks admirably buttoned down at a time when Mr Clarke is giving the traditional boost to the sensitive areas of schools and health. which will be part of the election battleground. This is partly being achieved, how-ever, by cutting back on capi-

In this last spin of of the Budget worth closer in- the electoral dice. Clarke has had to rely on tricks of mathematics

tal expenditure - the nation's infrastructure if one likes. Net capital spending, which stood at £10.3 billion in the last financial year, will fall to \$8.8 billion this year and \$6.7 billion in 1997-98. The decline in capital spending is made possible by taking some projects off budget through the private finance initiative, on which £10.4 billion is projected to be spent over the three years to 1999-2000. How-ever, the PFI has been consis-tently behind schedule and its effects on the overall Budget numbers overestimated: the result is a slow start to criti-cal projects, less than satisfac-tory infrastructure and some rather soft budgetary num-

bers.
The third structural weakness in the Budget is the reli-ance on less than solid taxation gains. One of the biggest figures mentioned by Mr Clarke was the possibility that his £800 million enforcement of tax collection would raise £6.7 billion. Even if there were a number of Rupert Murdochs paying only minimal tax, the markets would take a great deal of convincing on this.

Taken at face value, the £19 billion public sector borrow-ing requirement next year ought to be enough to con-vince the City that Mr Clarke remains a sound chap. But when one blows away at the

Triumphalism attired in the garb of Mr Micawber

Sketch



Simon Hoggart

triumphalist Budget, though perhaps he should have arranged a few triumphs first. Nonetheless there was a cocky swagger to him as he beliled up to the despatch box.

At one point he reminded us of his Nottingham origins, and I realised who we were watch-ing. Albert Finney in Satur-day Night and Sunday Morning, out in the late 1950s wearing his sharp new Hush Puppies, a packet of cigarillos in his pocket, downing the first tax-reduced pint of the

course, a little threadbare. The best he could manage was that this year's borrowing mere £26 billion, hardly more

than a grand for every house-hold in the country. The Chancellor is the Mr

Micawber of the deficit econo my. "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure, wenty-six billion and twenty ounds, result happiness!" He even looked like Mr Micawber, too, rubicund and cheerful, spraying bad jokes around like a jolly uncle who has been too long at the alco-Lucozade, or whatever was the pale yellow liquid which he glugged throughout his

It is inconceivable that he was tipsy, but he had the mhomie of someon who plans to be soon.

The new measures against tax evasion would not, he assured us, bring about "mo" bureauc' or re' tape . . . the first du' o' Gummt is to ma'

A new parliamentary figure appeared in his speech, Ms Debbie Speager. She may be related to Mr Deputy Speaker. Now and again he paused to large the speaker. augh, for some reason best known to himself.

known to himself.

Then he would cough, particularly in the passage about the need to stop people smoking.

"I haven't been converted to bubble-gum flavoured alcopops myself," he said. With any other minister this would have been irony. With Ken you suspected it was just a

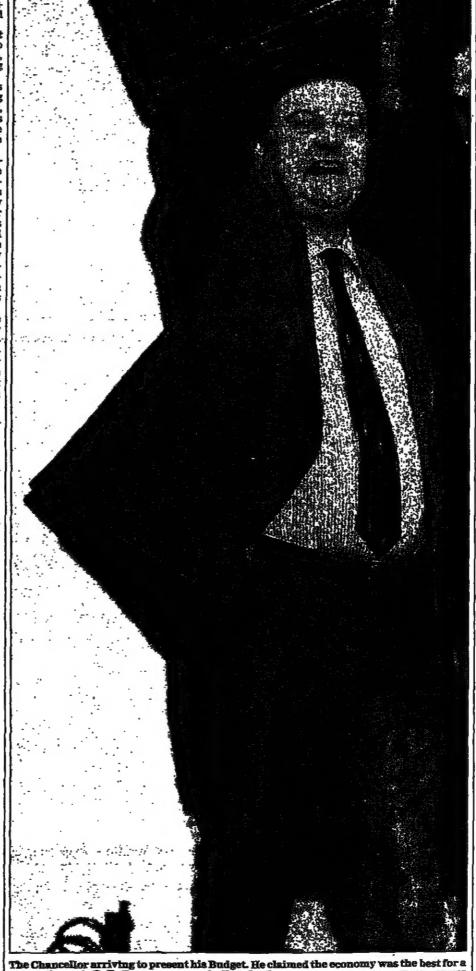
matter of time. He began with a few lacklustre scripted jokes ("contrary to popular belief, I usually look in the Mirror in the morning.") then moved on to his business of the day— tauxitus Corolor Process. taunting Gordon Brown. He said that few serious commentators doubted that

growth would be lower than 3.5 per cent next year. "Thear mutterings from the shadow chancellor — I said,

There were loud Tory cheers and jeers, but Mr Brown looked furious. He began banging angrily on his notes, then sucked in his cheeks as if sucking on an acid drop, a sulphuric acid drop.
(To stamp out bullying,
some schools have adopted a
"buddy" system. But Mr
Brown's buddy, Tony Blair,

beamed as if it was the funni-est joke he'd heard all day.) Mr Clarke's cunning was, perhaps, to make us think this was a cautious Budget for the Tories to build on next year, when in fact it was a spending spree for Labour to pick up the

Soon afterwards Mr Blair made a speech which was passionate, committed and egalitarian. As Labour MPs cheered him delirlously, I swear some of them could be seen asking: "This bloke's good. Who on earth is he?"



How the sums add up for you

Married, self

generation - 'a Rolls Royce recovery, built to last'

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Source: Coopers & Lybrano

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10,000	7.43	0.03	-3.58	3.85	0.46%
12,500	9.52	0.00	-5.35	4.17	0.40%
15,000	11.60	00.00	-7.13	4.47	0.36%
17,500	18.37	0.00	-8.05	10.32	0.71%
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25,000	20.81	0.00	-11.29	5,03	0.43%

Single employed person

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40,000

Taxation

Lowest standard rate in 60 years bolstered by other appeals to true-blue voters, says Larry Elliott | Travel and insurance

Inching closer to 20p target Retailers and

IGHTEEN years after Mrs Thatcher's first election victory. the Conservatives will go to the hustings next spring with the basic rate of income tax 10p below the rate they inherited from Labour

And the clear message from yesterday's Budget was that the Government will bring the main rate of tax down to its long-term goal of 20 per cent if they win a fifth term in

office next year. The Chancellor broadly followed the pattern he set last November, reducing income tax by about £2 billion, but clawing £500 million back through higher excise duties and an increase in taxes on both insurance premiums and air travel.

Mr Clarke said that the reduction in the

basic rate meant it was at its lowest level since Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister

But he buttressed the headline-grabbing changes in income tax with a number of

changes in income tax with a number of other measures designed to spread his bounty across as many of the Government's core constituencies as possible.

Small businesses, one of the backbones of the Conservative Party, were exempted from the tougher regulations on capital allowances for long-life assets and offered "substantial extra help" with next's years business rates bills. husiness rates bills.

For the green lobby, there were changes to excise duties, designed to encourage cleaner petrol and eco-friendly lorries. While petrol went up by 3p a litre last night, Mr Clarke reduced the duty on road fuel gas by 25 per cent. Heavy goods vehicles that meet stringent environmental standards will have their

excise duty cut by £500. Apart from motorists, the only real losers from the Budget were smokers, who saw the excise duty on a packet of 20

cigarettes rise by 15p. The rest of Mr Clarke's revenue-raising was concentrated on closing tax loopholes, by which he expects to garner £1 billion in 1997/98, rising to more than 23 billion by

1997/98, rising to more than £3 hillion by
the turn of the century.
The Chancellor said that, once average
earnings were taken into account, the
average family would be £370 better off as a
result of the Budget, and £1,100 better off
than it was before the 1992 election.
However, the small print of the Treasury's Red Book showed that, despite the reduction in income tax, the overall

taxation burden is now slightly higher than it was when the Callaghan government left office.

Higher levies on spending and increases in social security taxes have meant that the state will take 35.75 per cent of national income through taxation in the current

financial year, against 34.25 per cent in

What is more, the Treasury's projections noint to the tax burden continuing to rise for the rest of the century and beyond. By 2001/02, the last year for which the Government makes forecasts, tax as a share of gross domestic product will have

risen to 38 per cent. Treasury officials said that the rise in the tax burden was the result of two main factors.

It is assumed that excise duties on tobacco and petrol would continue to go up ahead of inflation, providing the Treasury with an additional £1 billion every year.

Further, the Treasury projects that tax allowances will rise in line with inflation, but the tendency of earnings to rise faster than prices means the tax take goes up—the phenomenon known as fiscal drag. Labour said last night that the Government had not only proved to be a tax-raising party, but had also raised taxes in an unfair way. It said it was a "give with

one hand, take with the other" Budget.

Despite Labour's criticisms, the overall thrust of the Budget was more progressive than last year's, reflecting the likelihood that both main parties will be making a

pitch for the votes of those on low and middle incomes at the election. Mr Clarke told the Commons that he could have emulated Nigel Lawson in the 1987 Budget and cut 2p off the basic rate, but instead he had decided to use some of his leeway to raise personal tax allowances and widen the 20 per cent lower-rate band. The Chancellor said that his decision to raise the personal allowance by £280 to £4,045 — an increase three-and-a-half times the rate of inflation — would help

times the rate of inflation — would help those on low incomes. He raised the threshhold for paying the top 40 per cent rate of income tax by £600, in line with inflation.

Announcing the decision to shave the basic rate from 24p to 23p, at a cost of £1,250 million, the Chancellor said that hitting the 20p target was one of the Major administration's "most important

pledges".

He added: "We are proving that we can move towards the delivery of the promise and still deliver healthy public finances. Every step we take makes it more and more credible."

Mr Clarke made only modest progress towards the abolition of inheritance tax

towards the abolition of inheritance tax and capital gains tax—two of the Prime Minister's most cherished aims.
The threshhold for paying inheritance tax was raised by £15,000 to £15,000—£10,000 more than indexation. But the CGT-exempt amount was raised in line with inflation by £200 to £6,300.

airlines attack rises in rates

Premium tax up to 4 per cent Air passenger

NSURERS and the trave industry were united last night in fierce condemnation of proposals to raise nearly 23 billion over the next three years from increases in both insurance premium tax

duty doubled

and sir tax.
Insurance premium tax,
which applies to most general insurance policies but not to life premiums, is to be raised from its current rate of 2.5 per

from its current rate of 2.5 per cent to 4 per cent. This will take effect on April 1 next year. IPT was first announced, at 2.5 per cent, in the 1988 Budget.

But what really drew the ire of the industry was the Chancellor's decision to increase from 2.5 per cent to crease from 25 per cent to 17.5 per cent the tax rate on a low types of specialised insur-

These include mechanical breakdown insurance sold with domestic appliances. travel insurance and policies offered alongside TV and car

The Government has be-come increasingly concerned that retailers have been minimising the 17.5 per cent VAT on goods by transferring some of the price to associ-ated insurance products which have, until now, attracted a rate of just 25 per

By equalising the VAT rate and the insurance duty at 17.5 per cent, the Chancellor hopes to stamp out this tax

Martin Brackenbury, president of the Federation of Tour Operators, described the in-crease as "collosal". He said:

"This will do great damage to our industry, which is very price sensitive."

Mr Brackenbury was equally critical of the Government's decision to double air meant's decision to double air passenger duty. The 25 rate for journeys within Europe is going up to £10 and the £10 rate for other international air travel will rise to £20. Mr Brackenbury said this would force the travel industry to reduce the number of holi-

days and increase prices. British Midland said it was extremely disappointed by the duty increase. "We have always maintained that air passenger duty is discriminapassenger duty is discrimina-tory against airlines, which increasingly compete with other transport modes, both in the UK and Europe," a spokesman commented

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) had been braced for a rise in the insurance premium tax, but had nevertheless been lobbying hard for it to be abolished. "We are surprised, sad-

£500

on pie

dened and disappointed that the Chancellor has decided to increase the rate of insurance premium tax for non-life insurances to 4 per cent," said the ABI's director general. Mark Bolest

The ABI estimated that the insurance tax currently raises £750 million a year, a figure which will increase to £1.2 billion. The rise will add £7.60 to the £190 cost of the average family's buildings in-surance; £5 to the £125 cost of the average contents insurance and £13.60 to a typical motor policy costing £340

A spokesman for Legal & General said the industry was braced for further rises. France levies an 18 per cent tex on motor policies, while Italy applies a rate of 21.25 per cent on household premiums.

Profit-related pay

Sharing ethos is discarded

Concession will be phased out

QUESTION mark hange over whether firms or employees will carry the cost of the Chancellor's planned phasing out of profit-related pay tax breaks, which affect more than 3.5 million

workers. Kenneth Clarke yesterday announced the withdrawal of the special tax relief initia-tive, launched 10 years ago to encourage companies to peg pay more closely to the suc-cess of the underlying busi-ness.

At present, up to £4,000 of salary paid under a qualifying scheme is tax-free. But Mr Clarke sald this limit would remain only until the end of next year. Then the tax threshold would be scaled back to 22,000 a year before being abolished by the turn of

the century.

The accountancy firm

which will yield up to £3.1 billion in savings by the

year 2000.
Stuart Hampson, chairman of the John Lewis Partnership, said it was "deeply discouraging that, at a time when boardroom excess is being so widely criticised, the Charcoller has decided to tax Chancellor has decided to tax a scheme which pushed profit out to everyone".

Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, said he believed in "linking rewards to

the profit of a company".

The MSF union condemned the move as "a major own-goal by the Government", adding: "It was they who set up this tax dodge, and 3.7 mil-lion people fell for it. Now the very same government is double-crossing them. The move is a total admission of failure - a number of PRP

schemes will now collapse."

TOC general secretary John
Monks said: "Profit-related pay
has been a large loophole, with
some people gaining considerably while others, for example public sector workers, lost out. The Chancellor is right to

The accountancy firm coopers & Lybrand says there will be huge confusion about whether the employer or the employee will carry the cost of the loss of tax relief. For a top-rate taxpayer the advantage can be worth up to £1,600 a year while the gain to a basic-rate taxpayer is £960. Many firms have encouraged their staff to switch to profitrelated pay schemes.

Other leading firms last night criticised the move, phase out this tax relief."

The Chancellor unveiled plans to stop employers getting tax breaks by paying their staff with company shares. shares — a scheme widely used by City financial firms. This loophole saves an employer 10 per cent because such share payments are exempt from national insurance.

Enforcement

Crackdown on fraud aims to claw back £7bn

Labour claims credit for strategy VAT loopholes and fraud targeted

HE centreplece of the Chancellor's Budget bal-ancing act is an anti-fraud crackdown which he claimed would raise nearly £7 billion over three years.

In what Mr Clarke described as a "spend to save" programme, the Government will invest £800 million tackling tax- and VAT-dodging. and social security cheats. Justifying his optimistic

prediction for public borrowing, the Chancellor promised to make up the revenue shortfalls that had thrown this year's forecasts into disarray. There does seem to be an increasing tendency to exploit loopholes and use special reliefs in an artificial way to reduce tax bills. Those able. In this Budget I will propose a number of measures to

stem tax leakage, to protect the ordinary taxpayer and make sure we get the right tax from the right people." Labour leader Tony Blair claimed Mr Clarke was rely-ing on a strategy first sug-gested by shadow chancellor Gordon Brown and ridiculed

by the Tories at the time. Thousands of civil servants are being drafted into the war on fraud: Customs is to em-ploy an extra 300 personnel and retain a further 1,100 posts, and Inland Revenue is

redeploying 1,000 officers.
Customs & Excise and Inland Revenue officials will be allowed to swap information with the Department of Social Security, a move that will alarm civil liberties bodies. The Government has also tarpeted a number of long-standing concessions or gaps in the

Electrical retailers in par-ticular will be hit by the ap-plication of VAT to product warranties. Foreign banks will see their VAT-avoidance schemes stored schemes stopped.
On income tax, the Govern-

ment is tightening the rules covering transfer of assets

over three years an extra £2.2 billion would be gathered by Customs through attacks on VAT evasion and avoidance, smuggling, the black economy and other fiddles. A further £2.2 billion is forecast from measures to protect social security benefits from fraud and £2 billion from the Inland Revenue clamping down on corporate and indi-vidual tax-dodging.

Some accountants cast doubt, however, on the Treasury's arithmetic. Martyn Deloitte & Touche and one of Britain's foremost authorities on tax evasion and fraud, agreed billions of pounds of unpaid taxes escaped the net, but added: "I don't think they'll do it [close the loop-holes] over three years." Were the enforcement machinery to be in place within six months, Mr Bridges said, it would produce no new reve-

nue for about a year. Mike Fountain of Coopers & Lybrand said the VAT loopholes being closed were not responsible for the shortfall in revenues with which the Chancellor was now trying to deal. "They got their forecasts

wrong," he said.

Among the specific areas VAT avoidance schemes in retailing, insurance, bad-debt relief, property and telecoms services, yielding at least

services, yielding at least 2720 million in 1997/98; • Inland Revenue measures against tax-avoidance schemes involving finance leases and the abuse of double-taxation relief by com-panies claiming overseas af-fillates, worth a total £200 mil-

filiates, worth a total 2200 million a year,

• Collection of betting duty
from illegal casinos, currently not possible under the Gaming Act;
• Cross-border smuggling

within the European market and the black economy in eneral. In addition to Customs, tax

in addition to Customs, tax and social security, the Government is acting to stem abuse in several other areas, including the evasion of vehicle excise duty. From January, clamping squads will clamp or impound untaxed cars. cars.

The Budget forecast that Ationson



Window shopping . . . the Chancellor hopes the tills continue to ring in the run-up to Christmas PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENGNS

Value added tax

More work for Customs officers

Equal treatment over unpaid taxes

HR Chancellor defused a flerce row with busi-ness by changing the rules for how long Customs & Excise can reclaim back taxes, cutting the period from

six to three years.

His surprise move could force Customs to recruit more staff — just after giving early retirement to experienced

officers.
The row erupted in the summer, when the Government moved to block claims

from businesses for VAT mis-takes dating back to the intro-duction of the tax in 1973, which could have amounted to tens of billions of pounds. A three-year limit was an-nounced with immediate ef-

fect in July and will be legis-lated for in the Finance Bill. The business world exploded with indignation at the
overnight imposition of the
limit, penalising companies
whose repayment claims had
been submitted but not agreed
with Customs & Excise. Criticism was simed particularly
at the way Customs could still at the way Customs could still claim taxes from companies

Mr Clarke surprised the tax world when he amounced yesterday that he recognised the imbalance was wrong, and that it would be corrected the surprise to the su by reducing the claim period allowed to Customs from six to three years. "Government must not

only be fair — it must be seen only be rair — it must be seen to be fair," he said.

"I have therefore decided that Customs' right to claim underpaid tax, in cases where no fraud or malpractice is involved, should be restricted to three years."

Alan Bucket of Binder Hamlyn said: "I would have preferred both periods to have been six years." He said the move would necessitate more Customs offi-cers being hired so that Legal cases will continue in the European Court to challenge the block on cases not Requestly.

tancy firm Coopers & Ly-brand said: "It was a surprise. It seems to be an admission.

that back claims are higher than the Customs has admit

ted, so they have decided to give up the smaller number".

PENSIONER Vera Robathan does not pay income tax, jet off abroad, swig alco-pop or expect to inherit a pot of cash. So the budget did not touch her for good or iII.

Mrs Robathan's only
source of income is her state
pension of £67.12 plus about

£10 a week from her late £10 a week from her late husband's pension. "Tax cuts are no use to me at all," she lamented. "I don't earn

enough to pay tax
"Mr Clarke doesn't seem to have mentioned pension-ers at all. I'm very disappointed."

She pays 231 a week for her privately rented home in Rednai, Birmingham, but does not smoke, drive a car or eat sweets (she is a diabetic). And she certainly does not drink

"Pensions are now linked to the retail price index,"

she said. "If only the Chancellor would restore the link between pensions and earnings, that would give me about an extra £20 a week which would do away with the need for a lot of handouts. We don't want handouts."

"The RPI link is measured in September but we don't get the money till April. But everything has gone up by then and the money has gone before they give it to you."

Mrs Robathan has just

managed to win some council tax and housing benefit but admits that making ends meet is still hard. She ends meet is still nard. She had also hoped for a reduction on VAT on phone bills and a concession on the price of the TV licence.

David Ward

Change: No change

Little pain, little gain

Names: Sean and Amanda Bellamy Status: married, both working, expecting a beby



SEAN and Amanda Ballamy can enjoy the prospect of having more money in their pockets as they await the arrival of their first child thanks to the cut in the basic rate of tax and changes in personal allowances. But the two south Devon

pressed by the overall shape of the Chancellor's package and have no inten-tion of changing their strong Labour allegiance. Neither smokes, and they drink only rarely. But the couple, who live in a three bedroom terraced cottage in Toines, are concerned about inexorably rising food bills and will be hit by increased insurance tax

and petrol costs for their Seven-year old car. Amanda earns £20,000 a

ear as an infant teacher in

est £12,000 as administrator of a small independent chool in Ashburton.

going back six years.

They calculate it costs the equivalent of a day's wages just to keep the car on the road and reckon petroi bills alone will rise by around £1.50p a week as a result of yesterday's measures.
"The car is a necessity

but only because of a lack of good public transport." says Sean. Though they liked the idea of having more dispos-able income both approved of paying tax to find areas of public spending such as

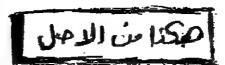
education.

"Despite more money going into schools what we are witnessing is a contin-ued growth in class sizes" Geoffrey Gibbs Change: gain £252 a year (approx)

Pensioners let down

Name: Vera Robathan Status: single pensioner Home: Rednal, Birmingham





Spending

Richard Thomas on how the Chancellor hit 'scroungers' while plucking voters' heartstrings

Soft sell with hard edge

HE inhabitants of Middle Eng-land were the target for the Chan-cellor's Budget largesse, with hefty increases for hospitals, schools and police funded by a crackdown on social security cheats, and a discreet shelving of Whitehall investment

While the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarks was able to show his tough side to the jit-tery financial markets after announcing tough overall spending plans, he also plucked at the heartstrings of voters worried about grandmother's hip operation and the leaking roof at the local school.

Only scromagers and, ultimately, single

parents, appear to be the losers from the package — although in the long-term, cuts to capital spending will be felt on the trains and roads. By then, however, the election

will be long past. Given the stage in the political cycle, Mr Clarke's virtual cap on the key measure of spending, the control total — which strips out erratic sections of the welfare budget and debt interest — looks virtuous.

Next year the Government intends to

spend a total of £266.5 billion — a rise in real terms of 0.25 per cent on the outturn for 1996/97 and £1.7 billion less than the Chancellor predicted last year. This brings total state expenditure down to 40 per cent of national income, the Chancellor's me-

dium-term target. For 1998/99 the control total will come down by another 21.9 billion — a rise, after inflation, of 0.75 per

After dire warnings that hospitals would be able to provide only emergency opera-tions, an additional £1.6 billion has been found for the National Health Service. Schools have gained an extra £830 million. assuming councils are able to pass the cash on. Even further and higher education, previously subject to a relentless squeeze, will get an extra £290 million in an effort to prevent damaging repeats of last week's

The £20 million for science sounds for-ward-looking, while £450 million to get an extra 5,000 bobbles on the beat before new year's eve 1999 is aimed at growing fears of crime in the floating-voter suburbs.
The Treasury has managed its conjuring

trick through a three point strategy. First, cash has been raised by plundering next year's reserve — intended for unforeseen events-to the tune of £2.5 hillion. down from 25 billion pencilled in from last year's

it means an extra 1% million visits from

Secondly, Mr Clarke has targeted be scroungers, the idle unemployed and lone parents. His spend-to-save package sounds innocuous enough, evoking images of cus-tomer-friendly supermarkets. In practice

nefit Agency officials, to try to catch the undeserving.
The Department for Social Security,

which will receive an extra £600 million compared with previous plans, is charged with turning \$469 million of this into a saving of £2.1 billion from reduced benefit fraud—a tough target, given earlier attacks on fraud.

The Budget also accelerated the drift towards US-style workfare programmes, designed to lever people off the dole. The new Contract for Work and extension of the Project Work scheme signal a tougher line with claimants.

Roth are intended to take the storm and

Both are intended to take the steam out of the inexorable rise in welfare spending. ne inexorable rise in wellare spending, partly fuelled by the growth in the number of pensioners — who are too close to the Tory fold to offend this close to polling day. Similarly, the abolition of the universal 85.30 s weak Out Parent Benefit for new claimants after April and the scrapping of the top-up to income support for lone mothers appeal to the Tory right, trim spending plays and look weaking by:

ers appear to the Yory right, transpearing plans and look pro-family. But the third—and most effective— plank of the Treasury cost savings resulted from a wholesale shift of responsibility

from government to the private sector.

The Student Loans book is to be sold off for around £1 billion, the Housing Corporation's budget has been slashed and departmental investment plans have been cut, thinly veiled by predicted take-off of the much-criticised Private Finance Initiative

Mr Clarke has taken the axe to state capital spending, which has come in at £8.5 billion for 1996/97, after depreciation, against a forecast of £10.1 billion at the time of his last Budget.

Next year, direct spending on new roads, bospitals and schools will be £6.6 billion compared with last year's forecast of £9.3

Although Mr Clarke was at pains to stress that the PFI would plug the gap, ever allowing for the initiative leaves next year's overall investment plans £2 billion elow expectation this time last year. Looking ahead, the transport budget has been fiercely trimmed with roads and Lon-don Underground — which will see an 80 per cent fall in direct hand-outs from Whitehall before the end of the century —

particularly suffering. The Chancellor predicted that the current £7 billion "agreed" under the PFI would double before the end of the century But analysts said that even the current figure was misleading, with only a small proportion of the projects actually signed, and were doubtful about the heroic looking forecast for a flood of private cash into public services

Education

Student loans privatisation offsets £1bn cut

Universities and schools get more Student top-up fees less likely

student loans scheme
will allow the Government to make modest increases in funding for schools and universities despite a £1 billion reduction in next year's education budget. The prospect of universities imposing top-up fees has

Gilian Shephard, the Edu-cation and Employment Sec-retary, said she expected receipts worth about 23 billion over the next three years from the sale to private sector financiers of the accu-mulated debt on the student loan account. The terms for new borrowing by students will be unaffected. Most of the income will be clawed back by the Treasury to fund the tax reduction.

The universities will The universities will get 2200 million more over the next two years, including £20 million for science

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said its concerted campaign had forced the Government to recognise the funding crisis. Next month's summit of university heads now looks less likely to endorse top-up fees for undergraduates. The Higher Education Funding Council for England said resources would fall by 0.9 per cent in real terms. Threatened cuts to universities have been lifted, while the underlying problems of funding left to Sir Ron Dearing's in-

quiry, due to report after the general election. A surprise cut in funding for nursery education vouchers for the parents of fouryear-olds was criticised as breathtaking by David Blun-kett, Labour's education spokesman. "The bureau-cratic costs remain and now growth of students' numbers

Broadcasting

Mrs Shephard said it was caused by a lower estimate of the number of four-year-olds and a new assumption that and a new assumption that only about 95 per cent would make use of pre-school places. More money would be available if there was higher

Of the £633 million extra money for schools, £591 mil-lion will have to be raised by local education authorities — all but 12 run by Labour and all but 12 run by Labour and Liberal Democrats — who will be faced with raising council taxes steeply just be-fore the general election to pay for last year's phased teachers' pay rise as well as any increase this year.

Teachers' unions and local authorities condemned the Chancellor's "con trick". Mrs Shephard made no pledge for full funding of next year's teachers' pay settle-ment. The Association of Met-ropolitan Authorities said the Government's failure to fund the teachers' pay rise for a second year would push up class sizes. Authorities were being given a tenth of what they asked for to tackle crumbling school buildings and would have to put up council

taxes to stand still. An extra £60 million will he allocated for school security years to implement the recommendations after the killing of the headmaster Philip Lawrence and the Dunblane massacre. But so far there is no sign how much of it will come from government

Other changes included: ● £15 million more for grant-maintained schools to help the sector continue to expand and \$20 million for the development of more technology colleges and other specialist schools.

222 million more for the assisted places scheme to allow 1,000 extra children from lowincome families to attend independent schools.

• £80 million more over two cratic costs remain and now amount to £1 in every £5 of the new money. The Tortes are betraying Britain's todders and their perents and are clearly refusing to guarantee places for all four year olds."

growth of students' numbers

• £18 million more for the Office for Standards in Education to complete the first four-year cycle of primary school inspection up to time.

John Carvel and Donald MacLead

£500m cut 'goes back on pledge to the needy'

Target 'missed by 50 per cent' Councils' repair funds badly hit

UTS of nearly \$500 million in house building and renovation programmes exceeded the worst expectations of housing organisations, which claimed last night that ministers had gone back on commitments to provide new homes for those

They warned that the cuts could mean that as few as 30,000 homes at affordable year - half the Government's stated target for new lettings. Local authorities' repair funds will also be badly hit,

but there is to be more money for estates where tenants opt to leave council control to be managed by new charitable or private landlords. The Housing Corporation, the main funder of new homes, will have its building

programmes cut from just over £1 billion this year to £552 million in 1997/98. Just three years ago, its budget stood at £1.8 billion.
Sir Brian Pearse, the quango's chairman, said: "This means that housing is not high on the political agenda.

sood quality accommodation could cut crime and improve people's education and health

The corporation had been the most successful raiser of private finance for housing having levered in £10 billion since 1988. The cut for the corporation is 2250 million worse than allowed for in last year's Budget. It warned that even taking into account other money for new social hous-ing there would soon be only 30,000 new lettings a year.
The Chartered Institute of

Housing, representing profes-sionals in the sector, said the Government did not care ity maintenance budgets | shift more of the costs of prowould also be cut by around £250 million — the fifth auccessive cut.

Christine Laird, its chief executive, said: "Compare this to the promise the Conservative Party made at the last election, of 26 billion to provide 153,000 homes by 1995. We have seen Mr Clarke pare to the bone and beyond." The cuts made no sense when the Government admit-ted 4A million extra homes would be needed in England,

many for small, low-income households. Jim Coulter, chief executive of the National Housing nere is hardly anything left the social housing sector, said for new programmes, but we are talking about real need."

This is an outrageous settlement. The Government has sector in adequately support schools, the elderly and people with special needs."

James Helida

People did not realise how | clearly abandoned its com mitment to a social housing programme meeting mini-mum needs."

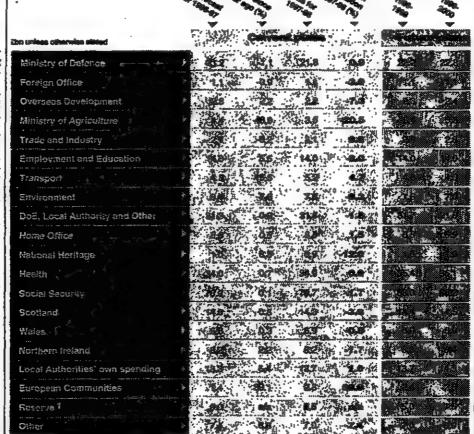
But John Gummer, the Kn vironment Secretary, insisted those most in need would still be provided with homes at af-fordable rents. Extra money for transferring council homes to other landlords would help meet other com-mitments to transforming remaining run-down estates though a partnership of private and public funding.

He also claimed a "fair and

balanced approach" to local government spending overall, although council tax rises are expected to go up by far more viding services to local levies. He said councils' spending in fingland could go up 24 per cent next year to more than 245 billion, although councils are already spending considerably more than that. State grants would only rise by 1.5 per cent to £85,8 billion.

Sir Jeremy Beecham, speaking for the three main local authority associations, which had campaigned for a 5 per cent overall spending rise, said: "The Chancellor's transparent attempt to cut income tax at the expense of council taxpayers will deny public services the resources

Public spending



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Cyclical Social Security 3	2
Central government debt interest	5 · ·
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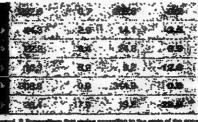
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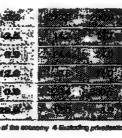
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Current orices, 25n



Defence

Current prices, £bn



Social security Current prices, 2bn 200

BBC foreign services saved

Grant raised to cover £5m shortfall

removed from BBC World Service foreign language services last night.
The Foreign Office increased its grant to cover the 25 million funding shortfall the service faced in 1997/98. The operating budget has been increased to £152.4

Sam Younger, the service's managing director, said: "Against & background of tight public spending this represents a considerable vote of

dently, avoiding any further reduction in language ser-vices, but also making key investments to position our elves for the next century."

The Foreign Office said the "disproportionate" £5 million increase was a measure of the commitment to the service in the midst of BBC director general John Birt's reforms. The figure represents a 3 per cent budget increase,

which was also intended to permit the service to prepare for digital audio broadcasts, a spokesman said. The World Service had already found economies of £6.5

Up to six language services in central Europe Africa and South America were at risk of

closure. Plans to privatise Channel resents a considerable vote of confidence by the Foreign Secretary in the World Service.

"The settlement will allow us to move forward confidency, avoiding any further of the settlement will allow by a sell-off.

A spokesman for Channel of Treasury proposals to raise 12 billion by a sell-off.

A spokesman for Channel 4 said it was extremely pleased a sale was not on the immediate political agenda.

Andrew Gulf and lan Black

The increase of 3p on a litre of petrol and diesel will also hurt. Driving his

win also that Diving his business van, Mr Blaskett spends £15 a week on diesel and his wife, who ferries that two children to and

from the local comprehensive school spends £10.

As non-smokers and con-fessed "light-drinkers", maybe spending £10 a week on drink, the freeze on beer duty and the cut in spirit

duty will have little effect. The Blasketty admit that

Law and order

Howard is a big loser

Home Office funds fall after next year

ENNETH Clarke yes-terday announced an extra £450 million will be spent combating crime next year, declaring: "When it comes to law and order this Government has got a record as long as your arm."
In fact, the Home Secretary,

Michael Howard, appears to Although the Home Office recruit 2,000 more officers by

budget goes up next year to the end of 1996, he added.

28,480 million, it is due to fall in 1998/99 to £5,390 million, and in the following year to £6,380 million. ironically, \$230 million of

next year's extra money will go to the Prison Service, reversing the cuts this year. Mr Howard said the new cash would help reduce over-crowding, providing 8,600 new prison places by the year 2000. It would also make possthie security improvements.
Funding for the police is to have been one of the main losers in the latest Whitehall tional \$40 million — which spending round. But Jack Straw, the shadow

But Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, said the number of police officers had fallen by 1,200 in England and Wales since 1981.

"This budget is a combination of broken promises, false dreams, and a significant Whitehall defeat for the Home Secretary who has falled on law and order," he said. "There is going to be a £10 million cut in his spending in the next three years."

the next three years."

There was also little cheer for the probation service, which saw its budget effectively cut by the rate of inflation.

Pinstripe winner



DOUGLAS McDougall was quick to appland the work of a fallow professional. The fast-talking recruit-ment consultant who specialises in supplying life assurance companies with fron-willed salesmen with from which satisfact with the Budget as a slick piece of marketing by the Current wither.

This is the biggest sales

pitch they will ever give," enthused the 26-year-old Edinburgh bachelor, who admits he was impressed t Mr Clarke's regular enticing references to a future basic rate of 20p in the pound. While too cynical to pledge instant support in the Tory cause he also admired the early foot-in-the-door promises to spend billions on education.

other reasons to be nice to Mr Clarke. A quick rattle through his calculator had put an estimated value of at least £140 on his pre-election sweetener, income cax variations on his £18,000 annual salary more than compen-sating for the new state fines imposed on his weekly hun-dred cigarettes quarter-bot-

*ĸ*ŶĠĠĠĠĠĠ

"I lose 532.76 on the smoking but I can't really complain as I'm spending that to get cancer," the political neutral acknowledged cheerfully Driving his I.8-litre Plat Bravo will cost him an extra 2112 in petrol, but the reduction in employer's National Insurance contribution will certainly more than com-Change: gains £192

No call for champagne Names: Alan and Sandra Blaskett



FOR Alan and Sendra Blaskett it will not be a night for popping open the champagne corks. Mr Blaskett believes that

Kenneth Clarke's budget, a its most generous, has left the family approximately
12 a week better off.
Mr Blashert, a selfemployed plumber from
Horsham deep in

Conservative Sussex, earns approximately £25,000 a year. Although the penny fall in the basic rate of income tax will help a little, the increase of £5 on car tax will probably take it all away. "We have two cars in this family so immediately there is more expense," Mr Blaskett said. "And 1p off the income tax rate will not

make a lot of difference Mrs Blunkert suld she would rather see money spent on health and education. The Blastetts admit that their Conservative loyalties, which held solid during the 1980s, have wavered during the 1990s recession.
"I think the Tories will still get my vote although the Budget will not affect me either way." Mr Blaskett said. Kamal Ahmed

Change: gain £240

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Finance Guardian!

As Brent Star moulders in a fjord, European Union ponders the vast cost of decommissioning all redundant offshore installations

Oil firms face £13bn clean-up bill

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

UROPE'S oil and gas companies face a £13.6 billion bill for disposing of off-shore rigs and platresurgence of the political controversy which dogged the

Brent Spar. This is the key finding of a confidential report commis-sioned for the European Union's environment and energy directives, seen by the Guardian, and discussed at a private meeting last week. It details concerns about the late of more than 1,600 off-shore unstallations, most of which will end their life

within 30 years.
Estimates in the 600-page report put costs at £13.6 billion for removing steel structures alone, excluding control with the control of the crate base substructures and the disposal costs of floating

It is forecast that, at peak, 25 installations will be abandoned each year

production facilities. The study estimates a cash outlay of £530 million to £606 million each year for 25 years. Such reports are commonly

used as a prelude to the European Commission preparing legislation. Difficulties for the exploration and production companies would increase if the EU decided it were politically expedient to legislate to limit the disposal methods companies are allowed to use.

The report says: "Typically oil and gas fields have an economic life of 20 to 40 years and it therefore follows that a much larger decommissioning programme will be required over the next decades, predicted to peak dur-ing the period 2010 to 2020."

forecasts that this will mean about 25 installations being abandoned each year during that peak period.

EU environment commissioner Ritt Bjerregaard, who intervened energetically during the Brent Spar oil storage buoy controversy, wants to be sea structures entirely.

information in the report will also be available to the Oslo/ Paris commission (OsPar). which controls the rules for dumping and waste disposal at sea and includes all Euro-pean countries.

Other European Union

commissioners are only likely to back a call from Mrs Bjerregaard to get tough on the oil companies through legislation if OsPar's decisions are seen as not hard-

line enough.
The sea-based activity working group of OsPar is due to consider the rules for stallations at its meeting on December 2. Its recommenda tions will be put to the full commission meeting next

The oil and gas industry will continue to argue that disposal at sea should not be ruled out as an option — including the possibility of turning rigs into reef-like harens for sea life.

Even before Brent Spar, still lodged in a Norwegian fjord pending a decision on its fate, the industry argued that any decision on suitable dis-posal options should be made

on a case-by-case assessment. The UK Offshore Operators Association said last night the industry "remained committed to finding the right bal-ance between the risk to human health and safety, anvironmental impact, technical easibility, economic considerations and public concern"

There was no such thing as a typical installation, a spokesman said, so no single method of disposal would be

The report says that border-ing EU states there are 609 offshore oil and gas platforms, 430 sub-sea structures and 600 sub-sea wellhes

Established international conventions specify the total removal of smaller structures in shallow water — anything weighing less than 4,000 superstructure sited in less than 75 metres of water.

The report concedes that it could be difficult to remove the concrete substructures of for a scale model test, no experience exists in this area, it says, but concludes that the industry is technically capable of safely removing most steel platforms and sub-



Platform for protest . . . Greenpeace in action on Shell's redundant Brent Spar buoy. If environmentalists have their way, operators will face decommissioning bills of £13bn or more

Grid slices ever deeper into staffing

Power firm accused Littlechild while shareholders escaped their impact.
Warning that British Gas of putting profit before safety as more jobs go, writes

Chris Barrie

HE National Grid was accused yesterday of placing power supplies in jeopardy by ordering drastic job cuts to fund higher pay-outs to share-balders.

The Grid runs the electricity transmission system in England and Wales, it intends to cut 750 jobs, 50 per cent more than originally planned. in order to protect profits from tough price caps im-

posed last summer by the industry watchdog, Prof Stephen Littlechild. The move will reduce the workforce by 17 per cent to 4,113 people and comes on top of 1,500 job cuts since privatisation. The latest cuts were announced as the Grid turned in a 12.7 per cent drop in pre-

tax profits of £292.7 million on £712.4 million turnover. Unions condemned the job losses and the Grid's decision to raise the pay-out to share-holders by 8.3 per cent to tomer rebates, pre-tax profits

Sol Mead, deputy head of union, said employees were bearing the brunt of tough loss by 24.4 per cent to regulatory decisions by Prof \$30.3 million.

had made hefty job cuts only to see a slide in standards of service to the public, Mr Mead said: "The Grid has kept the lights on so far, but the more you cut staff, the more the margin of safety

The cuts come as part of the Grid's plan to reduce costs by 6 per cent a year, the upper by Prof Littlechild in setting price controls in August. Grid chairman David Jefferies said the company's de cision to accept Prof Little child's review, which was condemned by the company initially, bad "removed a

major uncertainty". He was unapologetic for placing shareholders at the top of the pecking order. In setting dividends and looking at the Grid's financial strength, the directors would ensure sbareholder returns remain their priority".

The half-year results were depressed by lower turnover ness. But, stripping out the effect of demerging the pumped storage business and higher interest charges arising from financing costs linked to cus-1.45p a share, at a total cost of rose by 4.9 per cent. Energis, the company's telecoms subsidiary, had revenues of £43 son Read, deputy head million, a 174 per cent in-union, said employees were crease, and cut its operating

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Italy 2,481 Natio 0.51 Netherlands 2,7800 New Zealand 2,29 Norway 10,47 Portugal 250 50 Saudi Arabia 6,24 Singapore 229 South Africa 7 of Spain 208.00 Germany 2.4750 Greece 392.45 Hong Kong 12.62 India 59.71 France 8.36 Belgium 50 92 Sweden 10 96 Swizerland 2.09

Pearson gains best-sellers in US takeover guin, into a "powerhouse in both the frontlist and back-list", according to Michael "healthy and robust". "healthy and robust". "healthy and robust".

Lisa Beçkirişhanı

DEARSON, the media group, is paying £200
million to buy Putnam
Berkley, the American publisher whose top authors
include Dick Francis, Patricia Cornwell, Tom Clancy

combined group a 12 per cent share of the crucial US

Lynton, Penguin's chief ex-

ecutive designate. There were concerns in the City that the acquisition might turn out to be miss-timed. The consumer books market is, according to analysts, heading into "reverse" which could result in poorer profits.
But Mr Lynton — the for-

and Kurt Vonnegut.

The deal, Pearson's second big publishing takeover this year, will give the mer Disney executive who takes the helm at Penguin cent share of the crucial US at the end of the year at the end of the year said Penguin USA and Putpublishing subsidiary, Pen- nam had outstripped the in-

There should also be cost savings of about \$20 million a year from the acquisition which will increase Pearson's share of trade book sales in America to 12 per cent. A one-off integration charge of between \$5 million and \$10 million

is expected.

Putnam Berkley is being sold by the entertainment giant, MCA, in which North American drinks group Seagram has an 80 per cent shareholding. It is under-

cient capital or management time to continue to expand in book publishing.
Mr Lynton said Penguin and Putnam complemented each other "extremely well in terms of both authors and people". Although Pen-guin's catalogue of contemporary authors includes current best-sellers such as Stephen King, the company is regarded as highly de-pendent on its back cata-

logue of classic writers.

lishing which some analysts had speculated might be jettisoned by the company because of growing competition. Recently, the British group has appeared more interested in profes-sional and educational publishing where profit mar gins are more attractive Earlier this year it acquired HarperCollins Edu cational from Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation

Portillo lifts hopes of German order for **Eurofighter**

David Gow

DEFENCE Secretary Michael Portillo yester-day raised hopes for safe-guarding up to 100,000 British obs by declaring himself "pretty confident" about Germany's commitment to the four-nation Eurofighter

project. Mr Portillo's comments, made in the Commons, came after a meeting last week with Volker Rühe, his German counterpart, who is under-stood to be ready to announce a firm German order for 180 aircraft early next year.

"I am pretty confident now about the attitude of the German administration, but, of course, it does have to go through the Bundestag and you can never take parliamen tary votes for granted," Mr Portillo said, referring to stiff German opposition to the £12 billion Eurofighter project. Mr Ruhe is negotiating with Theo Waigel, finance minister, and Dasa, the German participant in the Euro-fighter project, about details of funding the production phase. This is due to begin in Britain, which is ordering 232

aircraft, early in 1997. But Germany, struggling to cut public spending and the budget deficit in order to qualify for the single European currency, is likely to draw up a three-year programme to fund initial production. The overwhelming bulk of the money would be committed in the 1998 and 1999 budgets.

British Aerospace will build the aircraft at Warton and Samlesbury in Lanca-shire, and Brough, Humberside. Engines will be provided by Rolls-Royce's Bristol plant. The defence ministry reckons the Eurofighter project will create 16,000 jobs directly and 84,000 indirectly but export orders could boost the total gain to 300,000.

Swiss bank's European Severn Trent to **HQ** moves to London

Mark Miles Deputy Financial Editor

Switzerland is moving
Switzerland, is moving the management of its Europe region, which includes the Middle East and Africa, from Zurich to London. The region will be run by David Robins. currently chief executive at

The move, announced yesterday, came as the bank revealed that it is to take a £1.44 billion charge against possible future domestic bad debt, and will chop back its branch network in Switzerland with the loss of 800 jobs. The changes, which underline the country's economic plight, will push the bank into the red to the tune of 500 million Swiss francs (£232 mil-

lion) this year. The switch to London is to some extent symbolic because operations such as corporate finance, equities, fixed income and derivatives are al-ready carried out from the City. However, it is likely to be taken as a clear signal that UBS regards itself as an inter-

bank.

It is also likely to boost morale among staff within the international business who feel their efforts the probovershadowed by the prob-

lems of the domestic banking business in Switzerland. Mr Robins will become the third non-Swiss member of the bank's group executive board.
Announcing the decision to make provision against the

national rather than a Swiss | risk of future losses. UBS bank. iallavetta said: "Shareholders can be sure that group results will be significantly stronger in the years ahead, as new un-expected provisions will no longer be a constraint on earnings. UBS said it would close 30

of its 285 branches in Switzerland, and the bank is plan-ning to reduce the number of regions into which its Swiss business is organised from 31

The reorganisation is expected to cost about 120 million Swiss francs and produce annual savings of 200 million Swiss francs. The Swiss banking indus-

try has seen a series of initiatives this year as the big players seek to reduce costs in the flercely competitive market. Back in April UBS rejected a merger approach from CS Holdings on the grounds that such a move would "place great strain on financial and management resources". In July CS Holdings announced its own restructuring with the loss of 5,000 jobs world-wide, including 3,500 in

buy back shares

EVERN Trent, the country's largest privatised water group, is to press shead with proposals to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares in a move that would cost about £274 million at the current market price.

The group's plan to en-hance shareholder value through a takeover of South West Water was blocked at the end of last month by Trade and Industry Secretary lan Lang on advice from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Severn Trent board won shareholder approval for a buy-back at the last annual meeting but decided not to go ahead with the scheme while it was pursuing South West

The board said yesterday that it would start buying shares "as soon as is appropriate". It also intends to seek to renew its powers to repur-chase capital, at the annual meeting in July 1997.

it is following the example of a number of water companies in returning funds to privatisation in 1989.

shareholders before a Labour government could impose the

threatened windfall tax on privatised utilities. Severn Trent, the main water and sewerage group in the Midlands, yesterday reported that first-half pre-tax profits rose 4.2 per cent to £197 million after £4.5 million of exceptional costs related to its bid for SWW. The interim dividend rises 14.1 per cent to

10.5p net a share.

Chief executive Vic Cocker said the group's capital requirement for business growth was relatively modest but he pointed out that it had committed an extra £70 million to new investment in water services.

The non-regulated Biffa waste management business produced "excellent results". with profits up by almost

Frank Dobson, shadow environment secretary, said: "Severn Trent is now making £744 profit out of its customers every single minute of the

At the same time, the group's capital investment, was at its lowest level since

Moreal

Australia v West Indies: first Test, final day

Bevan overturns Windies

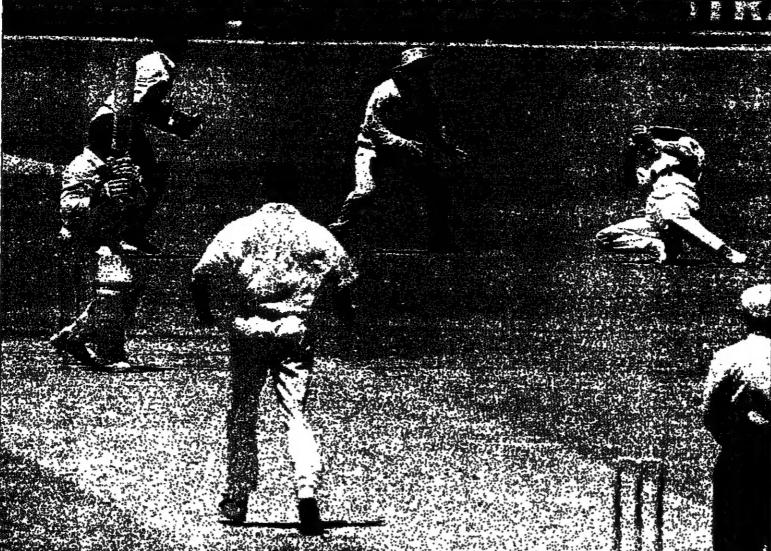
fike Selvey in Brisbane

ERSONAL achieve nent, said lan lealy after the first Test finished at The Gabba yesterday, is all very nice but nothing beats the feeling of having fought a good fight and won. For Australia it was sweetness itself as they chiered ness itself as they chipped and chivvied away at West Indies' batting until, five deliveries into the final hour, Glenn McGrath, in his 30th over, fired the ball into Kenny Benjamin's pads and saw his weary appeal upheld to give Australia victory by 123 runs. West Indies had started the final day on 89 for one, with Sherwin Campbell and Brian Lara at the crease, and nur-tured genuine hopes of

knocking off the remaining 331 runs they required. In-stead triumph and disap-pointment sat alongside each

To Campbell went the glory, as he batted almost to the end of the match - he was ninth out after more than 614 hours - to score his second Test century. It was a composed, mature effort which promised even better things to come. On the way be sed 1,000 Test runs in only his 20th innings, and even Lara required one more than

The rest disappointed. minutes, was able to keep Warne, on his return to the ing the wicket of Campbell. | league. He had made his had been instrumental in min's left knee.



utes more from each batsman and the match would have been saved. As it was, a final score of 296 meant that West Indies had to look back 11 innings, to Perth and the final match of their last series here, to find when they last

reached 800 against Australia. To their enormous credit Australia, who after being put The rest disappointed. To their enormous credit time, just a steady decline as batsmen played themselves in but failed to make Australia pay. Until Benjamin, everyone, even Jimmy Adams, who is playing more like Grizzly Adams, had spent at least half when the pitch, normally a phour at the crease but only disty ally to Shane Warne by pay. Until Benjamin, everyone, even Jimmy Adams, who
is playing more like Grizzly
Adams, had apent at least half
an hour at the crease but only
Lara, whose 4 occupied 55
that stage, still held together.

Dark time ound and then
the pitch, normally a
dusty ally to Shane Warne by
that stage, still held together.

Dark time ound and then
the pitch, normally a
dusty ally to Shane Warne by
that stage, still held together.

Dark time ound and the pitch and the pit

Campbell company for more | Test arena, found spin only | However, the key dismissal than an hour. Only 18 min | from the bowlers' footmarks | of Lara was credited to Paul and managed only two wickets in 41 overs.

Instead wickets came from other sources. McGrath had a wonderful series in the Caribbean 18 months ago and has begun well here with four for 60 yesterday and six for 92 in the match. But the real surprise came from Michael Bevan with some victously spun and bouncy Chinamen and googlies. Australia's cap-tain Mark Taylor said that he

Reiffel, and was a gem that preceded some unmitigated rubbish. Lara's intentions had been clear, with some searing, unstoppable early strokes. But in his first over of the day Reiffel, not for the first time, slanted the ball across the left-hander, who sent an edge like a shell to Mark Waugh at second slip. The force of the catch knocked the fielder off his feet but Waugh does not drop such chances. Reiffel, who had con-

97, before he eased McGrath through midwicket to reach his hundred.

maiden Test century in his their own downfalls. In par-previous match, scoring 206 ticular, Hooper might have ticular, Hooper might have taken longer than three balls against New Zealand in to assess Bevan's merits be-fore trying to sweep, and Chanderpaul's loose drive as McGrath went round the wicket will not stand as a Bridgetown, but that will pale compared with this effort. He had looked nervy on Monday evening and suspect outside the off stump, his footwork twitchy rather than purposebeacon in his career.

twitchy rather than purposeful. But yesterday he dug
deep, defended solidly, saw
the ball early but played it
late, and, significantly, coped
with Warne. Only when
Taylor gave the second new
ball to Reiffel did Campbell
become extravagant, taking
from the first over to reach
full become the first over to reach
full become sextravagant, taking
from the first over to reach
full become sextravagant, taking
from the first over to reach
full become sextravagant, taking
full because of his career.

Neither side escaped undersuced the second Test
beginning in Sydney in two
days' time. Australia have
called up Greg Blewett, probably because of his career.

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bowl some seam, rather than
become extravagant, taking
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become extravagant, taking full because of his capacity to
bowl some seam, rather than added another leg-spinner, Peter McIntyre, to the squad. beaded Middlesex's County ting batsman insists he has West Indies meanwhile have Championship bowling avoid to been influenced by the

Silverwood awaits his big chance

Daniel Roberts in Harare finds musical England are on the same wavelength

HE last time a full Eng-land team visited these parts, some 32 years ago, this city was called Salisbury. And you can be your life that four of the party did not turn up clutching gui-tars. The wives are not being allowed on this tour, so the chaps must have something to do when it rains.

The melodic qualities of

England's very own Fab Four

John Crawley, Alan Mullally. Andrew Caddick and
the physiotherapist Wayne Morton - are open to ques tion but there can be no disputing the squad's determina-tion to succeed against Zimbabwe and New Zealand in the next 100 days.

The traditional travelling garb of tour blazers and flannels was abandoned in favour of formal dark suits. "to send the message that we are here on serious business", said the team coach David Lloyd.

Little has been left to chance and the players believe they have never been fit-ter. Each was given an indi-vidual training programme collminating in a week of lung-bursting exercise in Portugal this month. They even have a fitness guru, a Kiwi called Dean Riddle who also works with Leeds Rugby League Club.

Dominic Cork's absence while he sorts out his marital problems has reduced the party to 14. It will actually be 13 until Graham Thorpe arrives tomorrow, after the birth of his son last week. Lloyd believes this is enough bodies for the task and has nominated Chris Silverwood of Yorkshire as the sort of migration and British High player to take advantage of such a slim squad.

Darren Gough, Caddick, Mullally and Silverwood are the only specialist quick bowlers and the likelihood is that at least three will play in the Tests. Lloyd said: "Silver-wood should be rubbing his hands at the chance. It is a terrific opportunity for the lad. He is 21, we have identi-fied his talent and now he can force his way into or close to the Test team."

Silverwood, a black belt in karate, can scarcely comprehend his ascent. "A few months ago," he said, "my ambition was to gain a regular place in the Yorkshire side. Now I've leapt above several other fine young howless and I'm on a Free bowlers and I'm on an England tour. This is a wonderful chance and I aim to do any-thing I can to take it."

Lloyd was here last winter as coach of the England Under-19 squad, so his rise has been similarly rapid. He described the practice facilities at the Alexandra Sports Club as "adequate" and the team will have nets in the mornings and afternoons of

the next two days. Whether Michael Atherton will join them is debatable because the captain went straight to bed with a sore throat as soon as the team arrived at their city-centre hotel. The slowness of life may be-

come England's main frustra-tion before they leave on January 5; and not just the pitches for the Test matches. which could be funereal. Red tape seems to wind itself round most things. Just ask the press photographers. Their equipment, which runs into tens of thousands of pounds, was confiscated by customs officials at the airport on the pretext that they might sell it to the locals. Ten hours later, and after much pleading with the Ministry of Information, Minister of Im-

Fast-man Follett joins Northants

Follett has joined North- cause of a shin injury. amptonshire on a two-year contract after deciding to leave Middlesex for domestic reasons. The 28-year-old wicket again. The hard-hit-headed Middlesex's County ting batsman insists he has wickets at 19.91 but made | profile players at Hove.

THE fast bowler David | only four appearances be Martin Speight has asked Sussex to release him so that he can start keeping

RAC Rally

Back to reality after three days in the dream machine

Maurice Hamilton tackled Killer Kielder and survived to tell the though Seturday was exceptionally demanding, the hard tale as he took the Fleet Street award for the first journalist home

previous three days had happened and the Guardian.

Observer car had actually finished the Network Q RAC Rally, never mind the bonus of taking 39th place and the latest when we started the previous three days had been seen when we started the previous three days had been when we started the latest latest latest when we started the latest la of taking 39th place and the Fleet Street award for the first journalists home.

5 award

others as we picked our way rst journalists home.
When Tony Jardine and I cars deep in Kielder Forest. had set off from our tempo- It was clear that finishing at a pedestrian pace. Al- smoothly.

T WAS crisp, bright and still in Cheshire yesterday morning. The perfect conditions increased the sense of disbelief that the events of the ahead when we started the ahead when we started the first day would automatically move us up the leader-board, but the difficulty was casted in snow and a biting wind warned of trouble ahead when we started the first lag in Northymberland. staying on a road which was coated in ice, polished to a dangerous degree by the cars that had passed through. The fact that we had only one spin was a tribute to the driver's

skills. If anything the conditions made my job as co-driver and support vehicles tackled much easier, the slow speeds allowing the reading of notes the event somehow ran

work was yet to come. The second leg, an appar-

ently straightforward mix of short stages in the grounds of stately homes, provided many traps even for the wary, as two wrecked cars, previously in the top 10, proved with dramatic effect. By Sunday night we were in 50th place and very relieved to be there.

The adverse conditions also

put a massive strain on the organisers as the train of cars

The marshals, soaked and I roads in Mid and North

stage at 6am.

cold as they manned the for-est stages, were unpaid, one of the few rewards being the two days that the thought of RAC Insurance Services cruising home to a finish RAC instraince services cruising nome in a linish restriction of the state of thought of our sponsor and the £20,000 bill at the end of the three days. All of which made finishing even more imperative and a nagnature of the state of the st

gling thought as we sat practice.
waiting for Monday's first The first stage was unsatisfactory as we both stumbled We were never so glad to and stuttered, unaccustomed to the dramatic increase in moved through the field.

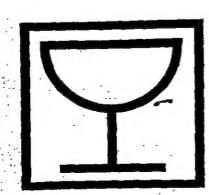
see rain, because it meant no to the dramatic increase in moved through the field.

Such was the sense of elaction that could get down to business on mid-morning the partnership thoughts of backing off to the field seemed like a fast-moving dream. Eighteen hours later, the feeling of warmth and well-being was due to more the fast, sweeping forest was working brilliantly, our reach the finish only became

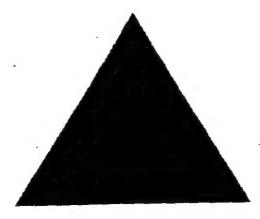


White lightning . . . the Guardian's man helps set the pace

Escort Cosworth taking a part of the tactical approach merciless beating as we on the final stage. It had all seemed like a fast-moving dream. Eighteen hours later.



Glass. Handle with care.



Glass. Handle with joy in your heart and a spring in your step.



SINCE

Flyer back on song thanks to Powell

Graham Rock

FLYER swept aside memo-ries of his slip in the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham with an impressive victory in the Peter-borough Chase at Huntingdon yesterday, despite a blunder at the last fence which tested Brendan Powell's horsemanship to the full.

ship to the full.

Favoured by the race conditions, Dublin Flyer started at 4-9, but Richard Dunwoody set out to make the running at a cracking pace on Gales Cavalier, and for most of the extended two and a half miles this talented pair entertained the crowd with an exhibition of jumping, taking each fence stride for stride.

stride for stride.

Dunwoody clung to the inside, determined to save every inch, but on the turn

for home Dublin Flyer was go-ing palpably the better.

He jumped the second-last a length in front and had drawn clear approaching the final fence. Here he made his sole mistake, failing to get high enough, and for a stride or so those who had laid the odds held their breath, but Powell sat tight and the favourite

recovered to gallop clear.
The official winning distance of 18 lengths gave scant indication of the closeness of the duel until the straight.

Tim Forster, who trains the winner, was delighted, saying: "He doesn't like going right-handed, and is not the same horse in any shape or form. Brendan said he couldn't really ask him to jump properly."

The winner's aversion to a right-handed course suggests that Dublin Flyer might not be asked to contest the King George VI Chase round Kempton's sharp turns, but Forster did not rule out a crack at the Grand National.

'The owner, John Summer has not been keen so far, but he'll do what I tell him — he

Forster. Summer thinks the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham next month might come too soon, and Dublin Flyer might go next to Wetherby for the Rowland Meyrick Chase on Parting They Chase on Boxing Day.

Gales Cavalier ran as well

as might have been expected conceding the winner 9th — in a handicap he would have been set to receive a similar amount — and nine lengths behind the runner-up came David Nicholson's smart chaser Kadi, who was staying on well in the closing stages. Kadi ran respectably con-sidering he had not been seen out since finishing runner-up to Banjo at Aintree last year, and he is worth bearing in mind for a decent handicap chase in the near future.

Tony McCoy completed a double for Forster when Tienen easily defied top weight in the Tote Handicap Hurdle; the champion jockey had driven from Cheltenham, where he had been expected to win the opening race on Courbarii.

His mount found little under pressure, though, and was readily beaten by Blaze Away, partnered by Jamie Osborne, who went on to complete a double when Pongo Waring took the Lansdown

Handicap Chase. Hopes that the American challenger Serenity Prayer might win the four qualifying races required to earn a \$1 million bonus were dashed when in the third leg of the Sport Of Kings Challenge, the Newent Hurdle, he failed to catch Mandys Mantino.

Although schooled over English hurdles in America, Serenity Prayer's jumping cost him his chance. He lost ground at most of the obstacles, and despite rallying after the final flight, the American hurdler could not claw back the deficit.

It was a useful performance

by Josh Gifford's winner, unbeaten in six races, who was competing over a distance



Sunny side up . . . Kadi puts in a good jump at the water on his way to finishing third in the Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BARON

Rose to bloom with stamina at a premium

Ron Cox

ATTS ROSE, 33-1 winner in testing ground at Newbury last season, will find conditions right up her street in the Independent Insurance Handicap Hurdle at Chepstow today.

Her stable struck with another 33-1 shot, Seek The Faith, on this correspond-ing card a year ago, but Oa-

401 \$33-212 LANSO

shoulder and talented rider Richard Johnson on board. Although beaten 18 lengths into third place behind Sparkling Yasuin and

furlongs trip when successful at Newbury and today's three miles can bring about further improvement in this lightly-raced mare. The opening Galway Nov-ice Hurdle holds the poten-tial of an interesting clash bot last week, Oatis Rose ran very well until tiring over the last three flights and was not punished when between two impressive it was clear she could not trouble the first two.
Oatis Rose (2.55) needed

tis Rose will have her all of the two mile and five races. One of the top per-backers with just 10st to furlongs trip when success-shoulder and talented rider ful at Newbury and today's season, Mighty Moss (1.25) looked the part when trot-ting up on his hurdling debut at Worcester. He is

narrowly preferred. At Windsor, Spinnaker (3.45) is fancled to over come a lengthy absence in the Cranbourne Handicap recent winners, Daraydan and Mighty Moss, the former a useful Flat recruit and the latter a graduate from National Hunt Flat winner Party Politics had

earlier won well on his debut. Nick Gaselee, Spin-naker's trainer, is a past master at getting his horses fit after a lay-off.

Charlie Morlock, former assistant to Nicky Hender-son, got off the mark as a trainer in his own right when God Speed You won at Wincanton recently. He

No tax relief from Clarke

ETER Savill, one of the most influential members of the Racehorse Owners' Association, was bitterly disappointed by Chan-cellor Kenneth Clarke's refusal to help racing in yes-terday's budget, writes Gra-hom Pock

hom Rock.

Blaming the British Horseracing Board and the Levy
Board for sligning racing's
Board for sligning racing's cause to that of bookmakers and punters, he said: "I thought there would be something in the budget, but I have always been concerned by the linking of racing's argument with those of bookmakers and punters, which haven't held

up to scrutiny.
"If you're working towards a common goal then it makes sense, but the bookmakers have shown that they aren't. The strategy has to be re-

The strategy has to be rethought completely.

"Racing has to look after its
own industry; the professionals — owners, trainers and
breeders — must work more
closely together and take a
more prominent role and not simply leave it to the adminis-

irators."
Tom Kelly, director general of the Betting Office Licensees' Association, representing the majority of betting shop proprietors, was also disap-pointed by the failure of the Chancellor to reduce betting duty, although he thought a more united approach might

have helped.
"It is disappointing that the strength of the Bookmakers' Committee's argument has not succeeded," he said. "It might have been more pro-ductive if everyone had asked for a reduction to be passed on to the punter, and separate voices such as Peter Savill's cannot have helped."

Bookmakers are expecting turnover to fall further when a second weekly draw in the National Lottery is intro-duced next February. The Chancellor might have felt it was prudent to assess the imat Wincanton recently. He could follow up with the part of the new attraction bewell-handicapped Star Of fore granting racing a reduction in betting duty for the Chase.

Chepstow runners and riders with form

2.55 CATIS ROSE (max)

Gelage Chane, Good to polit; Hurdien, Suft. /* Deviates bilinkurs. Function in Instaliate after horse's nume descript days, which intell

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05		DRAKESTONE (14) R Brows 5-11-0	II Johnson
ÖĞ		CLITTER ISLE (252) J GBord 6-11-6	
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100P FORM TUPE: Bilgisty Mess S, Dennydes 7, R's A Gess 6 1986: Paprament 6 14 12 W Marshon 9-2 (D Michalson) 15 rae Bucking S-G Oktrojoko, 7-4 Majoty Mess, 5-1 K's A Gest, 12-1 Scotby, 14-1 Gillier Isle, 25-1 Harry Horse, Drakestone, 33-1 Luchy Call, Ried Brunch

100	5 ELIGO SELLING HUNGLE 2m 47 110pts 51,940	
101	113446 CHINA MAIL (14) J Bernett 4-11-6	R Johnson
100	0230-2 FURSETTO (31) M Hammond 6-11-6	A Manufes
100	FEEDED JAVA SHRUNE (16) J Tuch 5-11-5	The last of
104	303/52" - STRIKE-A-POSE (276) B Liggrative 5-11-0	Mr J L Lieveline
106	900-45P CASTLECONATES (II) H Prost 5-10-12	R Democraty is
105	I POROFFET WORKINGHED (18) M Pipe 6-19-12	AP McCov
27	KADINI J Bosley 6-10-12	W McParland
	P LANGERIA ORGAZZE (1937 Hauphics 4-10-12 _	C Masde
100	F MORPOLE GLOWY (N) D Burnett 4-10-12	
MO	56-PP4 PARADE NACES (8) P Murphy 6-10-12	
111	(4-4) TROUBLE AT MELL (3-1) J Brown 8-10-12	T Hel emilia
HS	0-6223 DRAGONGEST (13) D Burchell 6-10-7	DJ Burchell &
110	P-50-0 PORTUNES ROSE ON J King 4-15-7	T-I II
114	O POLLETTOW'S DERAM (7) Mrs D Thursd 0-10-	7Our Levis (2)
14 mg		

1905; Caselo's Sey 4 10 9 D Walsh 20-1 (A J Eoldsy) 12 ran

POSSIG GAMBIE — INSTRUCTURE Close up, ted 4 out until hundigd fint, dang pace, 41 Incl (Metherby Josef 1 by self hep had, Ga). POSSIGNER WORK WORK (Land of the 72, hended over 25 cal, soon beeing, 267 Incl.)

2.25 DOMESAL HANDICAP CRASE 2m St 1107th C2,485 301 (RE1117 - BELLS LIFE (221) (CD) P Hobbs 7-12-0 302 (2179-1 REAU BARKLLAND (23) P Nichols 9-11-0 903 (UT1-12 ARRIALS (E1) (CD) J (Groft 11-11-1 304 (PF2)3-1 REBULANDS LANCASTER (18) (C) M GYER 12-10-8

1985: File Countril 11 11 10 W Paraton 9-2 (Firs J Pitacan) 9 rae Buttings ; -4 Armain, 9-4 Bean Bubiliard, 3-1 Both Life, 5-1 Senjamin Laurentes

Results

CONTROL SERVICIAN
LAGO (2010 No Medical S., BLAZE AWAY, J
OSDOTTO (13-6): 2, Geordiani (events lev);
2, Bellinol (4-1), 4 ran. 3, 13, () Beldding) Total
(2-40) Dual F: 52:30, GSF, 52:55.
1.38 (2011 47 100 de Chi 1, POROD
WARSHO, J Osborne (1-4 tav); 2, Pilmay
Truth (8-1); 3, Ghannita Star (3-1), 6 ran. 1,
(Mass M Ninght) Total C. 32:0: 52:10, 2:50.
Dual F: 13:20, CSF: 12:0: 52.
2-10 (Chi 1, VORTOSHIPEE GALE.

RACELINE CHEPSTOW 101 201 WINDSOR 102 202

2.45 (2m 110yde Hole): 1, MANDYS MANTING, P Hole (11-5 tay): 2, Serenby, Prigner (11-4): 3, Chicodini (7-4) 3 ran, K 7. (J Gillord) Tota: 22.10. Dual F: \$1.50. CSF. SA:51.

3.90 (2hm 47 Ch)s 1, MAPERIAL VINTAGE, N WHISIANSON (17-5). 8-13 fev Hanakham. 2 rds. (Vecetia Williams) Tote: C1.70.

3.45 (2m 27 Heise) 7, SPACIBAGE OCLD, GUpton (5-4 tev): 2. Tarra Bridge (11-6); 3. Rave Spread (11-2); 4 rss. 1, 27, (J Cdd) Tote: 22.20. Dual F: £1,60. CSF: £3.21.

PLACEFOT: £46.70.

HUNTINGDON 12.40 (Jun 2f Helin) 1, MR PLUTTS, S McNell (4-1 ji lav), 2, Chaint Mintrage (19-2; 3, Kathalion (5-1), 4-1 ji lav Ou-Raintow, 14-yan, 18, 11, 11 rack) Foer CS 60; 52.10, 52.20, 52.60, Dual P. 523.00, 597; 522.73, Tricast 5188.85, Tric: 597.00, NR.

\$22.79. THOSE 2.180.00. I'M AST THE STATE GUARDIER.

1-15 (Sha 4f 110 yele Chit 1, MESTER DRIVIN. W Magraton (11-4); 2, Wee Whetly (4-5 tay); 3, Shagaby (6-1), 14 ran. 35, hd. (M Wilkinson) Tota: C3.00; 51.40, 17.00; 13.0, 11.50, Dat P: \$2.40, C3.51; 51.47, nd. \$1.30, 15.50, Dat P: \$2.40, C3.51; 51.47, nd. \$1.30, 15.50, Data Chit; 1, 904.0 QBVT, 5 McVall (7-4); 2, Supar Hill [3-1]; 3, Databasotive (5-2 lay), 7 ran. 2, 15, (A Jones) Tota: C3.00; 52.20, 51.50, Data P: \$3.10, C35*; 514.61.

2.26 (Sha 2f 110 yele Hella); 1, QAYE FAREE, 5 McNell (0-4); 2, Exactorations

STILL LITTLE GUIRRER (2001) (10) R Price 5-11-7
110550- LUCKY LAME (270) (20) S Ent 12-1-1-2
2111-3 YES MAN (23) (3) (BF) Miss H Knight 7-11-1
5122-22 PORTUNES COUNTSE (13) (20) D Mong 7-15-0
10-7145 ACROW LINE (23) (3) D D Morriest 11-10-13
12012- NESS DESCHI (210) R Budder 7-10-13
14012- NESS DESCHI (210) R Budder 7-10-13
1402-54 FLARAR (20) (CD) R Roses 5-10-10
1402-54 FLARAR (20) (CD) R Roses 5-10-10
1402-64 ROYAL PRICE (221) A J Wilson 8-10-5
16231-2 (GERERAL TOME (3) D GANGOS 9-10-10
169781- TOF JAVALIN (202) (CD) N Haves 9-10-2
169781- TOF JAVALIN (202) (CD) N Haves 9-10-3
169781-57 YALLE (13) (D) R Subset 10-10-1
27510-3 QAYIS BOSE (6) M Sheppard 6-10-0
1- SWINSE MISSE (220) B Ryall 5-10-0 C Macrie & R Departmety Mr A Wirdle (7) D J Barchtil

nt. last 6th to 4 cure, led 3 out to bask ram on, she hd 2nd

1996: Klarder 6 10 8 D O'Sellindo 12-1 (R Howe) 15 cm Battings 11-2 Geografi (Jrl., 7-1 Larscowne, Yes Mart, 5-1 Little Gunner, Cetta Rosa, 10-1 Kerzr, Milo Diskin, St Villa, 12-1 Geografi Tonic, 14-1 Acrow Line, 16-1 Top Javelin

ward ABSES DESKERN Lad for, newsjod near finight, hat Std (a Ringlo (Fonders) Smitt day hall, GG-Fm). ST VIELDE Chases leader, led 2 out, all out, won by hat from Manabash (Fonters) Secretify has hall. QATES BIOSES Travested with jo 3 out, no extra. 151 Srd behand Spartning Yesselin (Meaninn Abbot) on hall. Hey!

3.2	₹5 π 271	RARY NOVICE CHASE 2m 110yes 61,071	
501		OR ROYAL (180) M Page 5-11-5	
502	543P/04-	BANKONIT (349) D Dayles 8-10-12T J Norphy +	
508	64P00-5	DRESS DANCE (14) N Mitchell 6-10-12Septie Mitchell (6)	
504	POF-5	CALENDOE (27) A Turneli 5-10-12	
505		GORDON (270) P Webber 5-10-12	
506	3423-12	MCUSE REED (14) (EF) D Gandotic 8-10-12	
507	30 -	MYSTIC COURT (271) A Turnel 5-10-12S MeHell	
508	1/2333-2	SUPER CORN (21) R Lee 8-10-12	
ROB	5123TP-	TEMPERATE KIND (265) A Foster 6-10-12	
510	0001-0	THE WAYWARD WISHOP (D) Uns L Taylor 7-10-12	
10 ru			
TOP	CHE TIP	Super Coin 8, Or Rogal 7	
1995	Sock To	Feth 6 11 0 3 Ponel 33-1 (II Shapperd) 14 pm	

WILLIAMS PRINCE CASE OF TOMORROW OF OFIN ME, PL
2-11 LADY RESECCE A (15) MINS V MISIONS 4-14-6

SARY LANCASTER M GYBIR 5-17-4

OPENANCE INDEX, PROJECT 1-4

OPENANCE INDEX, PROJECT 1-4

OPENANCE INDEX, PROJECT 1-4

RESERVED THE MAYCE (16) R PROCES 5-17-4

RESERVED THE MAYCE (16) R PROCES 5-17-4

RESERVED OF THE PART SHOWN ROOMS 5-17-4

SHOWN PART V RESERVED DAYS 5-17-4

2 WILLIAMS THE CESTS M PROSES 5-17-4

2 WILLIAMS THE MERCENT 5-17-5-17-4

PORT STREET M PROSESS 5-17-4

PORT STREET A Haggaria A Haggaria M Cellilla (7) S Spicer S Spicer P Holouphin R Dameroody A Jelenton L Better (7) L Setter (7)

1985: Dietem 4 11 3 Nos 11 Rimell 7-2 (N A Traiston-Curies) 12 rm

(6-1); 3, Landy High Eherliff (9-1); 6-4 law Seymourswitz. 10 ran. 18, 13 (K Ballay) Tota: \$13.50; \$12.70; \$1.50, \$2.50. Dual F: \$2.30, \$1.70; \$1.50,

LINGFIELD 11.50 (1m. 27: 1, ANGEL FACE, A Cultum (5-1); 2, Soldier Cove (14-1); 3, Efficacione (20-1), 2-1 for Avesome Power (4 - 4); 4, 18 (16-1); 2, Soldier Cove (14-1); 3, 18 (16-1); 3, 18 (1 12.50 (1m 2f): 1, MERSAY BEAT, G Duffield (9-1): 2. Chettes Persing (10-1): 3, Hobie Hero (9-2): 5-2 tay Greenwich

CSF: 298.11. Tricast: E486.82 Tric: 238.50.
2.00 (1es: 251; ., Parket All Colorates 5.4; 2, Bargathet (7-4 tay); 3, Our Shaden (3-4); 2, Bargathet (7-4 tay); 3, Our Shaden (20-4); 13 ren. K. 13. (F. ingram) Tole: (2); 10; 11; 40; 40; 21.90. Dush F. 23.80. (SF: 05: 57. Tric: E17.40.
2.36 (69); 1, SCHSCOR REDGE, D. Harrison (10-1); 2, Riange Harmaury (15-2); 3, Duke Valentino (10-11. 6-1 rev Couble Blot: 14 rin. 15. 3, G. Bridger) Tota: 221.27 04.00.
13.00. 05:60. Dush F. 273.70. (SF: 278.78. Tricast: 2709.85. Tric. (296.10).
3.10. Crimp: 1, #0001(2008. D. Harrison (5-1); 2, Sooty Torn (10-1); 3, Rarrisquite Walls (6-1), 4-1 for Polity Petulier, 12 ran. Shd. hd. (J. Jankino) Tota: 27.47; 250, 21.90.
23.30. Dush F. 222.00. GSF: E57.68. Tricast: E46.85. Tric: C75.80.

Hexham 2.46 Tip it in

SET-U- ATLANDARY CONTRAINS (26) T Emissive 6-51 DANTE LAD (15) Mr A Swinbarth 7-0-72 (16) Mr A Swinbarth 7-0-72 (16) Mr A Swinbarth 7-10-72 (16) Mr A Swinbarth 7-10-72 (17) Mr Dante 6-10-13 (17) Mr Dante 6-10-12 (17) Mr Dante 6-10-72 (17) Mr Dante 6-10-73 (17) Mr

PCHIII, TIPTO Chaperell Cartains 9, Too Gold 7, Regal Surprise 6 1995: Irish Gent 9 10 12 11 Supplie 13-4 (P Bassanant) 16 ram Batthug: 1-2 Chopwell Cursins, 5-1 Montanan, 12-1 Senors o'Or, Too Gold, 14-1 Royal Surprise, 15-1 Dawn Ltd. 20-1 Montan, Rheny, 25-1 Montanan, 12-1

300-07 CLEVER BOY (14) J Cures 5-10-6-OP PORM TIPS: Lilebooy S, Clarer Boy 7, The Hest Walter

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF STREET OF THE PROPERTY OF T

2.05 KERGHARI MOVICE CHARE 2m 11074 C1,807 15 KENGHARS WOVICE CRAFE 2m 110yde CA,807
205-# GOLDSH WELLD (193) (D) T Easterly 5-11-6
285-30 ARSTOCHMEND (2m) Mor L Marshall 7-10-12
4F BORRY JORRHY (4) D MORE 0-12
6F BORRY JORRHY (4) D MORE 0-12
6F BORRY JORRHY (4) D MORE 0-10-12
6F BORRY JORRHY (4) D MORE 0-10-12
6F-45 ETHECAL ROYE (14) J H JORREO 8-10-12
15-46 ETHECAL ROYE (12) Mrs 3 Gorlf 3-10-12
15-46 FERRING (14) D More 10-12
15-46 FERRING (14) D Mrs 5 Bradhurie 6-10-12
2153-72 SEGNIAND WAY (25) M FORGURS 8-10-12
255-72 SEGNIAND WAY (25) M FORGURS 8-10-12
257-24 MISTER CASUAL (173) W Red 7-30-12
2712-0 UR HYGERE (12) Mrs 5 Bradhurie 6-10-12
265-650 WHE WEARD (27) M Berner 7-10-12
40-5149 WOLANEY GES. (12) F Murray 0-1-12
665-650 WHE WEARD (27) M Berner 7-10-12

TOP FORM TIPO: Caldon Hallo S, Shpithani Way Y, Aringoloume S 1990: Parkhilden Timo 7 11 0 Y Speid 4-6 Cl. Lange) 9 van Bestings 7-4 Caldon Hallo, 5-1 Highland Way, 5-1 Uz Hygiene, 8-1 Belowey Girl, 10-1 Minter Citio Arispotenna, 20-1 Wee Wazerd, Farreick 's Brother

TOP PORT THE Ambranch 8, Tip it in 7, Well Appellated 6
199th Randseafe Owen 5 19 11 L Wyer 6-1 (7 Dynn) 10 cm
Settings 3-1 West Appelmed, 7-2 Notice, 4-1 Ambranch, 8-2 Tip 8.bs, 5-1 Adourn Boy, 5-1 Fly To The Exc 16-1 in A Mothers, 20-1 Familiar Ass

82241 SUTTING DIREAM (19) (cd) 8 Ellion 8-11-0 U49-721 WILLIE SPANDLI (19),(CD) (CF) Mr 8 Eraburg 56-165 POMWARD 418 (19) (CF) POM 9-10-0 9-054PU SHE YOU ALWAYS (12) M Bernes 5-10-0 TOP FORE TIPE Jules has tally 8, Boyers Green 7, Cader hick 4 1995; Hanby Johns 7 11 9 Mr C Bouner 4-1 (3 E Kettlewell) 11 pm Buttings 6-1 Cader hits, 5-1 Rayers Dress, 7-1 Sids Ci 189, Grand Scener

BORRY GRAFI C Grost 5-11-4

5-0 BOLD STATEMENT (16) G Moore 4-11-4

- BORES BROOK (520) R Right 5-11-4

- FOR CATTEMENT HERVIEW 5-11-4

UZ LOND OF THE LOCA (11) L Lungo 5-11-4

SCHEDUS BRIGGER (12) L Lungo 5-11-4

GUILLOS THE THE D (16) M Hammond 5
COMEY A SHOULD (225) J Turner 4-11-4

GUILLOS THE BULL J Jeffreger 4-11-4

TAMENAL JOY J MOORE 6-11-4

S CHROOKES DANGERTER IN (10) G Richards A 09- MACSLASS (205) J (7Hell 6-10-13 5 SAFRIY TIP (27) W Storey 4-10-13 In Prince 4 11 11 K Country 6-1 (T P Tale) 19 cm

Blinkered today for the first time: WINDSOR 12.45 The Millmaster; 1.45 Its Grand; 2.45 Zeredar.

Windsor

1245 Desire Co 2.15 Rendy M TAX SEN OF SURE 3.15 De

12.45 MINER TRANSPORTER HOMEN 14423-1 LADY PRIA (15) X Handerton 5-11-4 POD-U ALL OVER RED ROYER (7) A Carroll 4-10-12 ...

5713-2 (SMITTER, CANALASSIS (14) (14) 1 (Filtres, 4-1) 0 (SASSIC CILLALL MINISTER (14) (14) 1 (Filtres, 4-1) 0- excolarmon (40) R Touth 7-10-12 POP - THE MILLIARSTER (2008) J Upport 5-10-12 555-0 (17) 2 (AV) 150-14 (16) 1 (Solge) 5-10-7 0 (SMITTER) 2 (AV) 13) R Albert 5-10-7 70P PCBM 1792: Dentile To, Lody Puts S, River Bay 7
Refiles 5-4 Design Caveller, 6-4 Lady Puts, 8-1 River Bay, Greavener, 12-1 Desig Casilonger, 20-1 All Over Red Rover, 55-1 The Millionairs 9 reference.

PROVER THANKS THE PROVINCE RUBBING OFF \$1.30 PG |
PROJECT DISEASE LIEENING (19) (COD M Roberts 6-11-4 |
COD-1 INSLINESTONIO (CT1) N General 6-11-4 |
PALFES DISEASET (CT2) M Modeless 6-10-12 |
D-1 MARKES STM (CT3) J Witch 6-10-12 |
PURIL HIST OF PROVINCE (CT3) Mass H Kingles 6-10-12 |
3-4 POORT COARSIER (CT) (GFT) & do Hean 6-10-12 |
50-4 OCHESTONIO (S45) J GRISTO 6-12 |
SPARICLING SPRING K SHANN MAC 8-10-12 |
SPARICLING SPRING K SHANN MAC 8-10-12 |

1,45 WARDSON HOWICE BANDICAP CRASE SE

6 0505-4 AMME BORT N. (14) G McCourt 5-11-1
7 05-601 WEST TRULY C 6434 (144) H Hendrison 6-11-1
9 05-601 WEST TRULY C 6434 (144) H Hendrison 6-11-1
10 59-1-10 LA BEZZEMAY (13) G GETE 9-10-1
10 59-1-10 CAMPORD GENEL (18) R GETE 9-10-1
11 2007-10 SAMICADA (11) A Cerroll 4-10-1
12 14-944 FTS GMARTE (1) FROMEY 7-18-1
14 1552-8-1 CALL ME WITSE (18) P Hotogar 8-70-1
15 1507-1 AND GENERAL WEST (18) P Hotogar 8-70-1
15 500700-1 SHARTE PARGLOS (10) A TRUTCH 18-10-1
15 500700-1 SHARTE (18) PARGLOS (10) P Hotogar 8-70-1
15 FOOT-1 AND GENERAL WEST (18) P HOTOGA 6-10-0
17 POP-DISK THEM CONTINUES (18) C Egenton 7-1
TOP-POSISK THEM CONTINUES (18) LE SEMENTY P. DESPRESS (18) C Egenton 7-1
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TOP-POSISK THEM CONTINUES (18) LE SEMENTY P. DESPRESS (18) C EGENTON 7-1 M A Pitzgen D Walsh (2) D Horris R Parennt M Maryton T Discombe

TOP Follows, 1974. Contribute recent of the Contribute recent of the Contribute recent of the Contribute Review. The Bred., 12-1 Cardinal Review. B-1 Review. The Bred., 12-1 Cardinal Review. Cold Me River, Oxford Cell., 14-1 Seasiver

5 MP SUPERMANULL FOR MOVICE SINDIAL (QUALS 1907-62) PARKACHINAL (18) Miss If Kingles 4-17-8 (-9-9 PARKACHINAL (18) Miss If Kingles 4-17-8 (-9-9 PARKACHINAL (18) Martyn Massel 6-17-0 (-9-9 Massel 6-17-0 (-9-9 Martyn Massel 6-17-0 (-9-9 Martyn Massel 6-17-0 (-9-9 Martyn Massel 6-17-0 (-9-9 Martyn Massel 6-17-0 (-9-9 Ma

40075-4 LARAYA (30) (D) R Criston 11-11-11

40075-4 LARAYA (30) (D) R Criston 11-11-11

197032- BERN WHAM (2000) (CD) K MORRET 8-71-4

115703- BARRLY DESIRECTOR (2005) (D) O Sherwood 8-11-4

115703- BARRLY DESIRECTOR (2005) (D) O Sherwood 8-11-4

1211/F- THE HAVING PROTEINAM (2711) (CD) R DUCKO WO-11

1221/F- THE HAVING PROTEINAM (2711) (CD) R DUCKO WO-11

1221/F- THE MARKET (CD) (CD) THE SAL MINISTER 8-71-6

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1221/F- THE MARKET (CD) THE SAL MINISTER 8-7

1221/F

Top Fount Tayle Start Of Resty S, Bartly Debateur 7; Wiles Barrigotet 6'
Buttings 6-8 Early Debater, 71-2 Mass Morrigotet, 6-1 Zeroder, 7-1 Fichts, 8-1 Star Of Baty, 10-1 Lossate.
Spicity, 14-1 The Phyling Footsyle, Circulation, Red Geam
12 reamony.

TOP FORES TEP'S Deviatement continues S, Petr Of Junius 7, Seculation 6

Bettings 9-4 Yobraice: 11-4 Domarconstordines; 9-2 Totarty's Gift, 8-1 Pair Of Jacks, Society Sept.

August Twelfis, Kalzari, 25-1 Pair Of Tricks

99

3.45 CRAMICUTARE HANDICAP HUNCLE 2m of 110yin C2,042 | 5 CRAMBOURSE HANDSCAP HANDLE 2m of 110yin 12,00
| FFANCE DON'T TELL THE WEST (184) G Equiton 10-12-0 |
| FFANCE DON'T TELL THE WEST (184) G Equiton 10-12-0 |
| OSSITE BAGE (181) (00) FRIChes 5-11-11 |
| SUPPLE COPPER BOY (01-0) (190) B Buckler 7-11-0 |
| OU-12P KALLSAN (190) (01) Y BORNE 5-11-1 |
| OU-12P KALLSAN (190) (01) Y BORNE 5-11-1 |
| SAFE-I CLASSESSEN (190) HI TORNICH 6-11-1 |
| SAFE-I CLASSESSEN (190) HI TORNICH 10-10 |
| FOURTO JACKSON FLATT (190) OF BORNE 6-10-11 |
| SUPPLY JACKSON FLATT (190) C BORNE 6-10-11 |
| SCIP-DARMAN KROO (23) (03) M BORNE 5-10-1 |
| SCIP-DARMAN KROO (23) (03) M BORNE 5-10-1 |
| STOPP BARBAN KROO (23) (03) M BORNE 5-10-1 |
| STOPP BARBAN KROO (23) (03) M BORNE 5-10-1 |
| POSSE TIPLE STOPPHENDERS (190) C NOTICE 5-10-0 | DP PORM TIPE Spherator S, Chicopean 7, Rogh 6 letting: 3-1 Clairesven, 5-1 Spinnetor, 5-1 Ragib, 7-1 Less Jaring (Gog, 12-1 Jaridi, 29-1 Dant Toll The Wile

The Guardian Wednesday November 27 1996

Coca-Cola Cup, fourth round: Wimbledon 1, Aston Villa 0

Gayle shows Villa an early exit

DEFLECTED shot from Marcus Gayle shortly before halflast night took Wimbledon League Cup quarterfinal and left the holders Aston Villa to rue a host of missed chances as well as the loss of Gareth Southeate, who was carried off with a knee injury towards the end.

Villa came to Selhurst with an impressive League Cup record. They were the present holders, they had won the trophy twice in the past three seasons, and only Liverpool had also won the tournament

Last night, however, the more relevant record was the 15-match unbeaten run Wim-bledon had achieved after losing their first three fixtures. Villa, moreover, had gone out in replays on the same

ground in 1991 and 1993. Joachim has joined Yorke to give Villa's attack pace and mobility, and these two were soon darting into spaces be-hind Wimbledon's defenders. A low shot from Yorke, sent through by Southgate in the opening minute, was turned around a post by Sullivan and Villa took heart from the mo-

It took Wimbledon some 10

minutes to reply in kind. Their early movements became enveloped in Villa's busy five-man midfield. Then hesitancy in the Villa defence found Ardley bursting through to gain possession and lay the ball off to Earle, unmarked on his right. A goal beckoned but Earle's shot flew over the bar.

Though Villa's passing was always likely to be shorter and more studied than Wimbledon's direct, economical movements, they still used the full width of the pitch to extend the opposition at the back. And the ease with which Nelson was turning Wimbledon's defence on the right also gave Villa a distinct edge.

However, the old Villa problem, namely the lack of an incisive alternative if Yorke is not finding the tar-get, meant that Sullivan was mainly occupied with catch-ing centres during the first half-hour. And although Wimbledon were having the worst of the play territorially there remained the possibility that one of the quick, hard, accurate crosses which are their stock-in-trade would do more damage at the other end. In the event the damage

ute Staunton passed back straight to Ekoku, who was thwarted only by Oakes div-ing at his feet, and then gave the ball away to Gayle, who only just failed to make space for a shot for a shot

Two minutes before halftime Kimble's long pass found Gayle holding off Staumton as the pair raced towards the left-hand byline. Staumton thought he had blocked off the Wimbledon striker's angles but after Gayle had

was being loosased by a mix-ture of missed opportunities and one sucker punch. When Yorke, turning and shooting early in the second half, did find the target Sullivan was able to keep the ball out, leav-ing Jones to clear it ing Jones to clear it.
Villa's neat passing contin-

ued to drve deep wedges into Wimbledon's cover, but only Oakes's agility in turning a swerving, dipping free-kick from Ardley over the bar just before the hour kept the holders in the contest.

Oxford United 1, Southampton 1

Last-gasp Moody blues for struggling Saints

Jeremy Alexander

OUTHAMPTON just Sabout hung on to their self-esteem last night at the Manor Ground, but they did little to restore their confidence. In the last minute Oxford, who created more and better chances through-out, scored a deserved equal-iser when Moody lashed the

ball past Woods. Moody was a substitute for the main culprit Aldridge for the last half-hour. In that time Purse and Mike Ford both from crosses by Beauchamp. An equaliser was no less than ampton in all but Berkovic.

Denis Smith. Oxford's managainst Manchester United) to the ridiculous (1-7 v Everton) and then home defeat by Leeds on Saturday. His intime this season, assumed a

proved right if Aldridge had kept his bearings.

First Angel, allowed advan-tage despite Van Gobbel's foul, pulled back from the byline. Aldridge's shot cleared the stand. Then Beauchann from the other side found him six yards out with Woods exposed on his line. Aldridge's header was an impressive

Next an error by Dayden let in Jemson, who rounded Woods and dribbled for 10 seconds, manoeuvring in vain for a shot through the backtracking defenders. The red box looked as battered as the Chancellor's. Only Lundek-

Then, midway through the ager, felt beforehand: "It's a Berkovic had come to noth good time to be meeting ing. Dryden regained posses-Southampton," who had sion and shot gloriously from slipped from the sublime (6-3) 25 yards with his left foot into

the top corner.
Southampton, starting with-

stincts could have been tentative composure there-proved right if Aldridge had after, though Dryden and Van Gobbel stretched it dangerously close to complacency in defence, and right on half-time even Lundekvam sliced a clearance, which Woods, anxiously rooted to his line,

grasped in some surprise. Aldridge had another chance to justify his manager's optimism on the resumption. Van Gobbel, a constant liability with his loose control and ambitious dribbling in defence, let in Aldridge for a run on Woods. The goalkeeper was rounded, the open goal was missed. On the hour, Aldridge capped that by blocking a goal-bound drive Smith could hardly wait to

Oscioral Visitetti Whitehout: Purse, in Ford, Smith (Murphy, 75min), Elliot Gilchrist, Angel (R. Ford, 70), Gray Aktridge, Jemeon, Beauchamp. Seuthamptom Woods; Dodd, Van Gobbel Slater (Maddleon, 78), Lundekvam Chariton, Oakley, Dryden, Ostertad Serkovic (Magilton, 70), Watson.

Ipswich Town 1, Gillingham 0

Suffolk punch floors Gills

Trever Haylett

THE Coca-Cola Cup con-tinues to add a zing to Ipswich's season though for long periods it looked likely that Gillingham would have cause to celebrate another memorable giant-kill-

Having disposed of Barns-ley and Coventry, Gillingham were hardly daunted by their visit to Portman Road where recent improvements in League form had helped Suf-folk forget a dispiriting run of results which had put pressure on the manager, George Burley.

lpswich had Jason Cundy his £250,000 transfer from Tottenham, but in the event the badly through injury in recent seasons, lasted just five minutes before he was off the field for treatment, his Marshall, the on-loan goal-bead having felt the force of Butler's boot.

Marshall, the on-loan goal-keeper from their East An-glian rivals Norwich.

With Burley allowing him time for his repairs, Gillingham were given still more en couragement to press for-ward. Not that they needed it; as at Highfield Road, their adventure was exhilarating and just before Cundy's return after a 12-minute absence, Hessenthaler struck an invit-

ing chance narrowly wide.
Ipswich were finding it hard to live with the visitors' aggression and burgeoning confidence. They were fortunate to remain on level terms when Armstrong, advancing from full-back, let fly with immense power from 25 yards and shook the crossbar.

The First Division side were all at see, no more so than Cundy and it was no surprise to see him withdrawn before the first balf was out. Their attempt to reverse the trend saw the home side retaliate through Scowcroft, but his shot did not trouble

The substitution suggested that Ipswich's fortunes were about to improve as Uhlenbeek began raiding down the right. The second half started with Butler put in the clear but the finish was weak.

The tie was there for the taking and both sides were full pelt in pursuit. Ipswich's best chance had Scowcroft bearing down on Marshall, his England Under-21 colleague, but the keeper was equal to it.

equal to it.

Ipswich's improved play
was rewarded in the 73rd
minute when Uhlenbeek
swiftly turned defence into attack and provided the pass for Naylor to shoot his first goal for the club. Soon after Ratcliffe was sent off for elbowing the home side's

Team talk

The independent news and reports service 0891 33 77+

Arsenal	06	ipswich Town	19	Sheffield United	15	
Aston Villa	11	Leeds United :	03	Sheffleld Wed.	14	
Strm, City	34	Leicester City	35	Southhampton	20	
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30	
Botton	36	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27	
	24	Man. Unned	.01	Tottenham Hot.	07	
Brentford	31	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12	
Burnley	06	Milwaii	29	Wimbledon	26	
Cheisea	17	Newcastle Utd	16	Wolves	37	
Coventry City	26	Norwich City	18	Celtic	09	
Derby County	05	Notin, Forest	13	Rangers	10	
Eventon		1466				

The Guardian CINTERACTIVE

Walker puts paid to Millwall

N THE FA Cup first-round replays, Woking produced the shock of the night by defeating the Second Div-ision leaders Millwall 1-0

at the New Den.
The former Chelsea player Clive Walker carned the Conference side a second-round trip to Cam-bridge United when he drove a low right-foot cross-shot into the bottom corner after nine minutes. corner after nine minutes. Grimsby, adrift at the bottom of the First Div-ision, handed Charlton their second home league reverse in four days with a 3-1 victory featuring a Clive Mendonca double. • Ian Woan is to seek urgent talks with his Notting-ham Forest manager Frank

Soccer triatel C (1) 1

ens City)

Wreshes 45, 81 (Wreshes thorpe Utd) Yark (2) 3 Pepper 41

COCA-COLA CUP Fourth round lpswich (0) 1 Naylor 73 pton (1) 1 Dryden 26

First Division

Chester (0) 0 1,540 SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division Third Division

Sheff Utel (1) 2 Taylor 5 Katchouro 61

Third Division

Golf

sion and give time for other of Mateus Rose. I was so forwards to get up in support. pleased I took them home to "This is probably the best time to play United, considering their recent form, but they are still a huge club with a great squad. But we've already

_eicester scruff hoping to

Paul Weaver on Steve Claridge, a striker

geared up for tonight's Coca-Cola Cup tie

miership, Steve Claridge is

not so much a fashion

statement as a tight-lipped no-

manager Martin O'Neill de-

acribes this antithesis of Beau

Srommell as the scruffiest

forward in the division; for those who followed The

Tough Of The Track in the

Victor comic, he suggests Alf Tupper's footballing brother. Claridge, who once sold

fruit and veg from the back of his car to supplement his

meagre wages at Aldershot, has regularly turned up for training wearing old Cam-bridge United or Birmingham

City kit instead of Leicester's

On the pitch, too, with sleeves rolled up and socks rolled down he can appear the antithesis of the modern foot-

baller, a muddied throw-back

to when players were clogs and played with concussive, laced-up medicine balls. But as Manchester United are likely

to discover today in the Coca-

Cola Cup, and again in the Pre-miership on Saturday, clothes maketh not the football man.

A book chronicling his col-ourful career comes out in

February — Tales From The Boot Camps — but his reputa-

tion as one of the game's great

snazzy Fox Leisure clothes.

his considerable worth as a

headed back to me I didn't

have the strength to take a

second touch. I just swung my

right boot at the ball and it was the wisest decision I ever

O'Neill's description of him

s the poor man's Kenny

Dalglish brought a titter or two but was made seriously.

Dalglish. But I think what the

give United a dressing down

N THE Gucci and Armani- characters cannot disguise strewn world of the Pre- his considerable worth as a centre-forward. No Leicester surprised a few people this seasupporter will forget his goal in stoppage time at Wembley son. There are no big-time Charlies here earning £10,000 Nigel Martyn in this year's play-off final. The referee miership they don't run around so much and they let later said only two seconds you play more in the first twothirds, but we work hard and have brought a bit of the First remained on his watch.
"Even today, playing in the
Premiership and looking for-Division attitude with us." ward to the likes of Manches-ter United, nothing can com-pare with that goal. It was the

Few Premiership players have served such a thorough apprenticeship as Claridge, now 30. He played for Ports-mouth, his home town, Faregreatest moment of my life. I'll die happy after that. It was as if the whole seaham, Bournemouth, Weymouth, Crystal Palace, Aldershot, Cambridge (twice), son, nearly 50 games of fight-ing and struggling, had all been crammed into half a Luton and Birmingham, second. When the ball was played over my head from the where he became the first Blue since Trevor Francis to free-kick I was too tired to chase it. And when it was score 20 league goals in a sea-son before moving to Leices-

ter for £1.2 million in March. "It was difficult at Palace because they had Ian Wright and Mark Bright. Then I went to Aldershot, where we had one midfielder who was registered disabled after a car crash. He had this handi-

capped sticker in his car.
"The training ground was covered in dog shit so we had "I wouldn't dream of compar-ing myself to a player like to train in the car park, which was always flooded. Once we didn't get paid for two months. One Christmas they boss meant was that, like Kenny, I hold the ball up pretty well, don't lose possesgave me a turkey and a bottle

my mum and dad but when we opened it we found the turkey was rotten." Claridge did not find life much better at Cambridge, "It

was the unhappiest 21/2 years of my career. John Beck, the manager, was in favour of the minutes of one-touch football. We were not allowed to pass back; we were told to boot it out of play. We were winning games and getting boosd off.

buckets of ice-cold water over each other before matches. In the end I said I had a heart condition to get out of it." Claridge has fonder memo ries of the former Birming-

ham manager Barry Fry. "I had 27 different partners up front when I was at St Andrews. We had nearly 50 pros there. When we went training on Dunstable Downs it was like a shot out of Zulu; there running over this hill and some have never been seen again, they just kept on run-ning and never came back." Claridge is a footballer who

has never stopped running. But it has not stopped him looking at other areas of life, as if his Aldershot days have imbued him with an enduring sense of insecurity, "The fruit and veg thing has gone but I'm still ducking and diving a bit. I've just gone into this egg business . . .

Juve on top of the world

UVENTUS took time out from giving football lessons to Manchester United when they won the World Club Championship in Tokyo yesterday. Alessandro Del Piero scored the only goal in a scrappy 1-0 victory over River Plate of Argentina. The European champions had the better of a disjointed

game but were made to wait until the 82nd minute for the winner, which came from a

Di Livio's corner was flicked on to Del Piero lurk-ing unmarked at the back of the penalty area and the young forward controlled the ball defly before shooting into the far top corner of the

The goal belatedly brought the match to life and Boksic had two good chances to score on trademark Juve counterattacks but wasted them both. River Plate, who had hit the crossbar in the 72nd minute with an angled shot from Ortego, fought back with some spirit but were unable to pinch an equaliser.

The Juve coach Marcello Lippi said: "We worked hard for three years to bring our-selves up to this level and I think everybody in the team deserves credit for this

championship."
It was the second year in succession that a European side had triumphed, after the competition began in 1960. South American sides have won it 20 times against Europe's 14. Juventus's previous victory came in 1985

when they beat Argentinos Juniors on penalties. At home, Sunderland have had second thoughts about Victor Leonenko for £2.5 million. The 29-year-old Dynamo at Roker Park for the past week but apparently failed to score in a reserve game at

Bradford City's manager Chris Kamara has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association for comments he made to a linesman during his side's 2-1 vic-

The Plymouth Argyle man-ager Neil Warnock will be staying at the Second Div-ision club after clearing the air during talks with his chairman Dan McCauley yesterday.

The peace meeting followed a public fall-out between which resulted in the Argyle manager offering his resigna

Shearer named in Europe's best

ALAN SHEARER is among the front rum-ners to become European Footballer of the Year but Paul Gascoigne has been omitted from the shortlist of 50 named in the soccer magazine France Football. David Seaman and Robbie Fowler are the only other Englishmen included, joining their Premiership colleagues Karel Poborsky. Patrik Berger, Bric Can-tona, Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli.

Germany has the highest number of nominees with eight, followed by France (seven), and although Ita-ly's contingent is down to ive from last year's eight

Roberto Baggio is among
those overlooked — 18 of
the 50 play in Serie A.

Oxford Utal (0) 1 Moody 90 8,473 Wimbledon (1) 1 Gayle 44 NATIONWIDE LEAGUE POSTPONEDA Allos V AR

Rugby Union

American Football MFLe Pittsburgh 24, Miami 17, **Basketball**

NRA: Orlando 86, Milwaukee 100; Wasi Inglan 105, Minnesota 98; Utah 106, Ne Jersey 92; LA Clippers 84, Chicago 88.

ice Hockey

Snooker

Fixtures

PA CUP: First-round regards.
ham v Poterborough (7.45).
COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth reusels Bolton
COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth reusels Bolton
COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth reusels Bolton
Totherham (7.45); Lelcoater v Man Uhd

Men C v West Brom (7.45). FA CARLSHERG VASE: Second Brandon Utd v Brigg Tn; Tow La Murion; Seaham RS v Ossett Alb; 1

ley v Hull (7.0); Strafford C v Wescham (7.0); Surriery v Grinsty (7.15); Third Divisions Bury v Doncaster (7.0); Chester v Scunthorpe (7.0); Lincoln v Derlington (7.0); Welssell v Rochdale (7.0); Chester-Beid v Scarborough (7.0);
AVOM 1825URARCE CORESTMAT/ON: First Divisions Bournsmouth v Millwell (2.0); Brigation v CPR (2.0); Bristol Rivra v Ristol C; Cardiff v Portsmouth (2.0); Codord Ud v Charlton; Southampton v Chelaca; Swansea v Swindon (2.0).

Basketball EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Se floof round: Estonia v England (4.0). MEN'S MATIONAL TROPHY: Que

Sports Guardia

Wales put their faith in **Davies**

David Plummer on the former captain's return eight years on

ALES bave asked Jonathan
Davies to fire
their back line
again, eight
years after he won the last of

years after he won the last of his 27 caps, and at 34 he will be the oldest post-war outside-half to play in the red jersey. His last international was on December 10 1988 when, under his captaincy, Wales became the first of the home countries to lose at home to an emerging nation, Roma-nia, in a full Test Recriminations followed and Davies joined the exodus of Welsh players north.

But on Sunday he faces Australia at the National Stadium, where five years ago he was banned from being inter-viewed on the pitch because he was a rugby league profes-sional. He is one of three changes made by Wales after their streaky victory over



Italy in Rome last month.

Neil Jenkins has been deposed at outside half as Kevin

Bowring seeks a more adventurous approach. "We need game-controllers and decision-makers," said the coach, who saw Davies excel for Wales in last weekend's Duhai Sevens. "Jonathan has the knack of doing the right thing at the right time, as his performances during Car-diff's European Cup run have shown. He offers both experi-

ence and expertise."

Despite his wealth of caps Jenkins has struggled to get his line moving. Beaten packs have not helped, nor has his tendency to stand still when receiving a pass. Davies may not have the pace of yore but his reading of the game and his ability to bring the best out of those around him make him formidable.

"There is a danger pe will expect too much," he said. "I am not the same player as when I left. I have improved in some aspects and am weaker in others."

When Davies returned to Welsh rugby 13 months ago he received a rapturous homecoming but failed to break into the Cardiff team at outside-half, and struggled with injury while his wife Ka-ren battled against cancer. "I did think of quitting at

the end of last season," he said, "but this season has If Davies recaptures old glo ries, a tour to South Africa with the Lions, the one honour in the game which has eluded him, will beckon.

tional, is also recalled, six years after his last union game for Wales, and the fitigain Ieuan Evans reclaims his place on the right wing.

MALESA W Prostor; I Evens (both Usrolli, G Thomas (Bridgerd), 5 Gebas (Swanses), D James (Bridgerd), J Bawtes, R Howley (both Cardiff), C Leader (Swanses), J Ramshwaps (capt), D Yeases (both Cardiff), G Lievellyw (Harisquing), D James, H Taylor (both Cardiff), S Wessens (heart), K Jensel (Ebor Vale), Replacements N Jendre, D Jake (both Pentyprid), C Charries (Swanses), G Charles (Richmond), L

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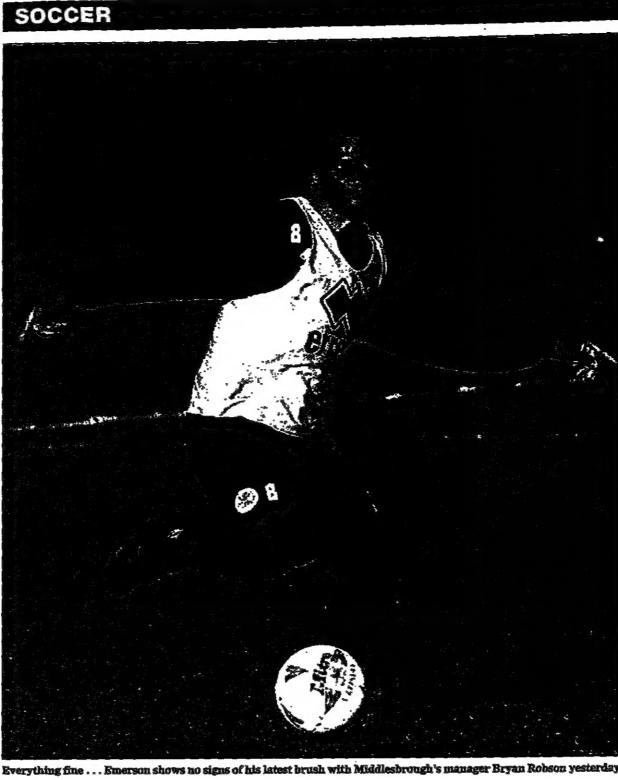
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Control of the state of the same of the



Everything fine . . . Emerson shows no signs of his latest brush with Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson yesterday

Michael Walker on more problems for Emerson before tonight's North-east derby

David Young, another former rugby league international, is also recalled, six his stay-away prodigal

behaviour, you would think Bryan Robson would be tired of his strong-willed Brazilian Emerson. And yet

FTER three weeks of the Middlesbrough manager, what seems like continually disruptive pushed to the limits, insists that Emerson will play in tonight's fourth-round Coca-Cola Cup tie against Newcas-

tle at the Riverside Stadium. Emerson's latest indiscre tion has at least seen him incur a fine from Robson. The Brazilian, who was sus-pended for last weekend's draw with Manchester United, turned up a day late for training having been given permission to travel to Portugal. "Emerson is a top-quality player but he is not bigger than the club," Robson said. "He will be fined."

But Robson was also adament that Emerson deserved a place in the Boro midfield "I'm sure Emerson will be fo-cused on the game," be said.
"I don't think there is a prob-lem over that and I'm convinced the fans will give him a tremendous reception."

Fabrizio Ravanelli became Robson's most significant worry yesterday when he reported sick with a stomach teported side with a stomach bug. But the manager hopes the Italian will recover in time to face Alan Shearer. Middlesbrough have gone five games without a win — the same number of matches in which Shearer has second which Shearer has scored consecutively. If he does so again tonight he will equal

his personal record. Liverpool, having been booed off Antield for the first time in the Roy Evans era, will be trying to end their slight stutter in form, although it will be far from easy against a rejuvenated Arsenal A Dennis Bergkamp thigh strain is the Gunners only worry though Arsène Wenger has no doubt about the ability of Bergkamp's replacement, John Hartson. "He has the power and

Hughes. "When I spoke to class striker and would be a kic continues in goal as a replacement for England's ago the timing was right. It's not right now and Chelses say David Seaman, who is out for they won't let him go anyway. I've got targets elsewhere." Meanwhile Tottenham are three weeks with damaged

barrassment of riches. He must decide which four to choose from Barnes, Redknapp, Thomas, Collymore, Berger, and McManaman if

A man for whom decision-A man for whom decision-making comes naturally is Alex Ferguson, and once again youth gets the call above experience for Man-chester United's visit to Leicester. Peter Schmeichel and Eric Cantona will sit out the game but John O'Kane, Ben Thornley and Michael Clegg keep the positions in which they did so well on Sat-

Gary Pallister, however, a player with his youth be-hind him and must be concerned about how much foot-ball there is in the future. His helped by a car accident this week and the centre-half has been told by Ferguson that he must prove his fitness at Filbert Street or at Old Trafford at the weekend to stand any chance of making the trip to Vienna next Monday. Tottenham will not relish a

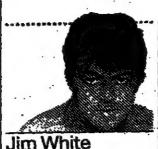
trip to the First Division leadreached Wembley in this competition. With Per Franden back after a three-match absence with a groin injury, and his fellow Dane Michael Johansen and new siconless Johansen and new signing Jamie Pollock in the frame, Bolton's manager Colin Todd has eight men challenging for four midfield places.

Todd played down sugge tions that the club were still

What never changes is her figure. "I read the other day that if Barbie were a real woman she wouldn't be able to stand upright." Barbie (36-18-33)

G2 page 8

United we sit but lost in the crowd



bles, a classic Sixtles yarn about a northern lad made good, our hero, played by Albert Finney, goes home to a foothall mate

Feted as a celebrity, he is offered the chance to watch the game from a box at Old Trafford, Manchester United being so far ahead in the football marketing game that they were offering executive seating arrangements way back when most other clubs considered a cinder bank the height of luxury. But sitting there, enclosed, watching the lads swaying on the terraces below

him, Finney fiels increasingly uncomfortable.
Eventually he has to leg it outside. Indeed, so odious is the experience, so currupt, so treacherous, so symbolic of the distance he has travelled from his roots, he is driven to

throwing up.
Last week I was invited to
watch a game at Old Trafford
from an executive box for the
first time and I found myself
similarly overcome with a sense of nausee. Although in my case it was brought on by a surfeit of Coronation Chicken

It was a timely invitation. however. Before United's game with Juventus, Alex Ferguson made pertinent com-ments about some of the crowd at Old Trafford, about how they were turning up for a day trip, enjoying the mag-nificent facilities, sitting back and expecting to be enter-tained, a new constituency unaware of their part of th spectating bargain, unschooled in the need to generate an encouraging atmoplayers any favours, he said, trying to recover their form and spirit in a silent stadium

Many United supporters had been alarmed for some time about the decline of the noise at Old Trafford. The reasons were many: unsympa thetic stewarding, a stadium DJ whose idea of pre-match atmosphere-building is playing Queen's We Are The Champions, and the fact that local youths — traditionally football gathering — find themselves squeezed out in favour of those more likely to spend heavily in the bars,

cales and shops where football's money is soun these days.
But the most fundamental

reason is architectural. The poleome improvements tion have altered the entire manner in which a crowd behaves. On terraces, choirs could form, those interested in joining in could gravitate towards them, those wishing to avoid them move away. In seats, people not only feel less physically connected, they are rooted to the spot: when someone stands up to shout, sing or wave a flag, he immediately spoils someone else's view. It was no coincidence incidentally, that for several years the Old Trafford DJ's other pre-match song was

lames's Sit Down. The executive box is the apex of non-participatory spectating. The deal seems to be that what you gain in luxury — central heating, the pitch laid out like a table-cloth in front of you, no need to queue for your half-time cupps — you lose in contact. You might as well watch on television; as indeed you can do, a monitor at the back of the box offering slo-mo replays and Ron Atkinson opinions. As with most things, how-

ever, it depends on the company you keep. The box I found myself in was filled with the passionate, the excited. the passionate, the cattery those who had thoroughly ap-preciated the hospitality.

There was yelling, there was chanting, there was even a man with a cornet offering bress renditions of La Mary seillaise and that Verdinasuch the Dutch fans so enjoy.

HROUGHOUT the 90 minutes, this box was a bot-spot of passion, encouragement, atmo-sphere. Oddly, though, so her-metically sealed are the Old Trafford executive boxes (they come complete with a volume switch to enable irolled electronically), no one outside could hear.

As the cornet player blasted his atonal stuff, and the chanting grew more raucous with every bottle of Manchester United vintage claret, it be-came clear that this was probably the first recorded nstance of a reversal of the usual rule: the sensitive souls in the cheap seats were being protected from the unruly un-

vashed in the boxes. But it led to an unlikely thought: if Alex Ferguson really wants to improve the atmosphere at his ground, he should encourage the stadium architects to fit the boxes with windows that actually open. And thus stop all that noise going to waste.

Guardian Crossword No 20,821

Set by Araucaria

hoping their Danish mid-

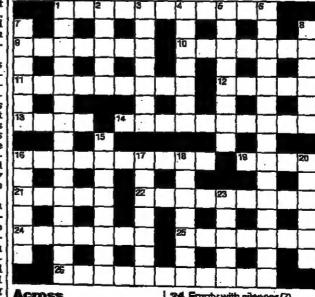
fielder Allan Nielsen recovers

from the knee injury sus-

tained in Sunday's 3-1 defeat

Lest night's soccer, page 15

at Arsenal.



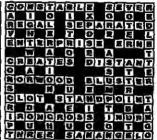
Across

- 1 Mr. Mop, shaggy, dishevel-led, to beat record? (11) 9 London palace of 1 down's
- 10 Some hair specialists with some ornament for a hat (7)
- 11 Haggler who wins another medal like the first? (9) 12 i am a carrier and am taking
- 13 Romance pursued by female willingly (4) 14 1 down's badly grazed and sore from something sharp

everything back (5)

- 16 Little beast, about one of five, in drapery (10)
- 19 Queen Elizabeth the first? (4) 21 Old blast by jolly good fellow (5)
- 22 Big story about saint at jewel of a church (9)

- 24 Empty with silencer (7)
- 25 Request to an establis ment gets a funny look (7) 26 In unobtrusive energy, sellors and soldiers are as we like
- them these days (6,5) Down
- 1 I wrote for the county, Your Majesty: I feel sick at heart (8,7)
- 2 Beast's desire to be included in the big guns (5)
- 3 Hell is red stuff under the earth (7)
- 4 Lake not supplied by a river in Spain (7)
- 5 Getting no water to wash away real sine (8) 6 Wander vacantly with a tunner from 1 down (4,3,8)
- 7 Highball drunk by Miss Universe? (6) 8 See 23



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d

15 Advance theory supporting sterling? (8)

16 Character from a short story by 1 down (6)

Knight no longer errant yel In Queer Street? (7) 8 Uranium extracted from titanium could be phoney (7)

20 According to Wordsv our birth is dead (6) 23,8 Mud on shoe, English work of 1 down (5,3,3)

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